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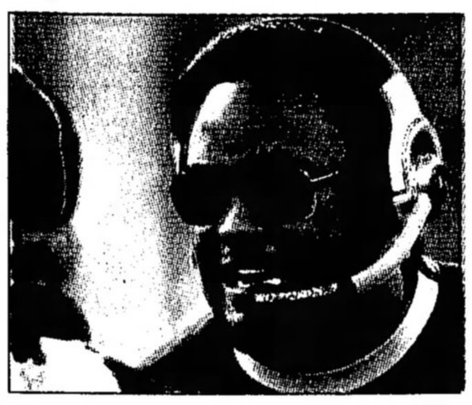

Moaning begins
After two losses in just three games, the Steelers are hearing about a Super Bowl hangover. **1B**

Price higher
Older people get sick more often and pay more for health coverage. **5A**

INSIDE TODAY

Valley Health
Health officials are urging pregnant women to receive flu shots. **10A**

Region lagging
Workers in the Pittsburgh region on average earned 95 cents in 2008 for every dollar earned by workers nationwide, a survey found. **7A**

More sought aid
More people in the region received public assistance last year. **7A**

SPORTS

Pens start over
The still-young Penguins are out to repeat as Stanley Cup champions. **1B**

Martinak honored

California Area senior quarterback D.J. Martinak is *The Valley Independent* Player of the Week. **1B**

DEATHS

■ Ralph Iacoboni, 57, Rostraver Township
■ Mario "Mooch" Muccino Sr., 80, Dunlevy, formerly of Monessen

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WEATHER

Tonight Cloudy 49°
Tomorrow Mostly cloudy 56°

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Two sections, 18 Pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Business, a regular Wednesday feature of *The Valley Independent.*

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Szakal: Tartt shot couple

The suspect said he didn't help the Springers because he was "frozen in fear."

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
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From the witness stand Monday, accused killer Gerald Szakal apologized to the family of Howard and Nancy Springer for the events that led to the couple's murders on March 4, 2008.

"I am very sorry. I couldn't imagine if it was my mother and father. I feel terrible. They weren't supposed to get hurt. You know what I mean."

A Washington County jury will begin deliberations today in an effort to determine the fate of the Webster man accused of gunning down the Springers that night in their 1241 Highland Road home in Carroll Township.

If convicted of murder, Szakal, 26, could face the death penalty.

The defense contends another defendant, Tecko Dwayne Tartt, formerly of Donora, went with Szakal that night and fired the fatal shots. The prosecution contends Szakal acted alone.

According to court records, Szakal stole jewelry and rare coins from his mother's Rostraver Township home and sold them to the Springers before returning to the couple's home to rob and kill them.

Questioning his client, defense attorney Noah Geary painted the events of March 4, 2008, as a "robbery gone bad."

Szakal said he first met Howard Springer in August 2007 when a cousin introduced them. Szakal, who had broken his foot at work, wanted to sell some of his jewelry.

He was addicted to pain pills and sold half of his prescription for money, Szakal testified. By that fall, he was selling jewelry two to

(See TARTT, Page 2A)

BVA admits to early pay error

The district did not take into account slots revenue in setting the discount amount.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
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ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP – The Belle Vernon Area School Board Monday promised to refund a small percentage of a slots revenue tax credit erroneously withheld when homeowners paid real estate taxes early this year.

More than 5,000 district residents submitted applications last year under the Homestead Farmstead Exclusion Act so they could – for the first time – receive real estate tax rebates from slots revenue.

Resident Richard Margie last month came to the school board meeting complaining that 2 percent was withheld from his credit.

The deadline for early payment is Wednesday.

"You should have gotten $165.31. If you paid early, you lost 2 percent," board President Dale Patterson said. "The gentleman last month pointed it out to us. As a board, we investigated it. We talked to tax collectors, and he was absolutely correct. We admit that, totally."

Patterson said each taxpayer who paid early is entitled to $3.31, which the district will now distribute.

Board member Gerald Jackson said it is unknown how many property owners paid early.

"Somebody should have caught it. We should not have printed it. It should have been in there, that 2 percent," he said. "We are the first district to say that we've made a mistake, and we do apologize to Mr. Margie.

"There are 16 other districts in Westmoreland County alone that did the same thing as we did. We're the first to come up and say, 'Hey, we owe you that money back.'"

The board unanimously approved the refunds. Director Aaron Bialon was absent.

Contacted at home, Margie said he was not satisfied.

"There are people that don't really look at things," he said. " ... The business manager, she told me they knew it was wrong, but they went ahead and did it because the other places did it. If they jump off a bridge, that doesn't mean that you do it, too."

"They'd have to apologize in person to me before I accept it."

In an unrelated matter, the board hired:

■ Sandra Bonasorte and Cynthia Dunlap, instructional aides, at $11.95 per hour.
■ Terry Encapera and Kenneth Jones, custodians, $10.95 per hour.
■ Debbie Naylor and Melissa Welch, cafeteria workers, $9.25 per hour.
■ Chaz Waugaman, weight room supervisor, $15.27 per hour.
■ Lauren Fenyar, junior high cheer coach, at a salary of $2,514.

The board named Kari Horrell and Christin Maatta as junior high volunteer cheer coaches and Mark Shemansky as a volunteer varsity volleyball coach.

Evan Sanders/For The Valley Independent

Attired in colonial garb, Shirley Baldwin, Perryopolis Area Heritage Society president, and Bob DeCroo prepare for Pioneer Days, which will take place this weekend.

Perryopolis Pioneer Days expected to draw crowd

The annual event will feature an extensive Civil War battle re-enactment.

By MARK HOFMANN
For The Valley Independent
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The annual Perryopolis Pioneer Days celebration will return Saturday and Sunday with food, entertainment and Civil War battle re-enactments.

The two-day event will begin with a parade through Perryopolis 11 a.m. Saturday. Henry DiVigileo will be parade marshal. Bob and Edna DeCroo will portray George and Martha Washington. The couple will appear in the parade and walk throughout Sampey Park.

The parade is expected to be the largest in years, with at least nine marching bands and more than 30 antique cars. The quilt show at the Grist Mill is expected to be bigger this year.

The event will feature a variety of music, kicking off Friday with the band Undercover playing at the Sampey Park Pavilion at 7 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m. That will be the only musical show with an admission fee – $5. Refreshments will be available.

Other bands include country band Girlz in Black Hats, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday; the barbershop quartet Dutch Treat, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday; Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray, 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday All performances will be held at the Sampey Pavilion.

Sunday bands – also appearing at the pavilion – comprise gospel music and old-time rock/contemporary sounds of Ron King from 1 to 2 p.m. followed by the Steel City Quartet from 2 to 3 p.m. The dance troupe Company D will perform on the Fisher Stage from 4 to 5 p.m.

Playing all day will be the Crab Tree Bottom Band. The band will be located on the Cooper Stage, next to the grist mill. The band will perform Saturday and Sunday.

According to Dan Coldren, chairman of the Perryopolis Heritage Society, which sponsors the event, a schoolhouse will feature volunteers and social studies students from California University of Pennsylvania demonstrating what it was like to run a school during pioneer days.

Coldren said the biggest attraction will be the Civil War re-enactment at Youghiogheny Meadows. The re-enactment has grown larger and more extravagant over the years.

"It's second only to Gettysburg," Coldren said. Re-enactors have come from as far as Arkansas and Texas for the battle, which will take place from 2 to 3 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. There will also be living history demonstrations throughout each day.

Coldren said good weather the past several years has led to a healthy boost in attendance, which was estimated to be 3,000 to 5,000 people per day.

The Ball at the Fisher Stage Area will take place 7 p.m. Saturday.

On Sunday there will be an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Sampey Pavilion from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is $6 for adults, $3 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and younger. A Sunday

(See PIONEER, Page 2A)

Rostraver commissioner dead at 57

Ralph Iacoboni previously served on the Belle Vernon Area School Board.

By STACY WOLFORD
Staff Writer
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Rostraver Township lost a "good friend" Monday following the death of a longtime public official.

Ralph Iacoboni, 57, died at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital after a battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy of public service that spans more than a decade.

He served on the Belle Vernon Area School Board for eight years and was serving in his second year as a Rostraver Township commissioner.

A businessman, he was partner/owner of Val's Car Wash and Beer Distributor.

He was also well-known as a volunteer and coach for the Belle Vernon Wildcats midget football league for 23 years.

Those who worked with him say they will remember him for his compassion and devotion, but mostly as a friend.

Lifelong friend Jesse Cramer said he grew up with Iacoboni, as their families were close. He said their fathers established the Wildcats midget football league, and eventually passed the reigns on to them.

"Even though he wasn't coaching anymore, he was still involved, helping with fund-raising and anything else that was needed," said Cramer, the Belle Vernon Area School District athletic director and magisterial district judge in Belle Vernon. "You could still find Ralph sitting in the stands."

Cramer says he lost a great friend.

"I'll miss his company. I could talk to him about anything," Cramer said.

It was that easygoing nature that made him easy to work with as an elected official.

Belle Vernon Area School Board President Dale Patterson served with Iacoboni on the board and said he was "always approach-

(See ROSTRAVER, Page 2A)

Rostraver (FROM PAGE ONE)

able."

"He may disagree but never became disagreeable. Ralph was a guy that we could talk things through. If we disagreed, at one time we had a major disagreement, once we went outside, it was over," Patterson said.

"I was teaching when he went to the high school. He's always been a gentle person. He's always been concerned about the community. He's been a real asset. They lost a good person."

Long-time school board directors Chuck Kraft and Joseph Stringhill said Iacoboni will be sorely missed.

"It's a shame. We just knew him as a friend," Stringhill said.

Kraft said Iacoboni put the students first during his time on the school board.

"He was a conscientious director. He had no hidden agendas. He was very sports-minded and cared about the academic programs," Kraft said.

Kraft said not only was he committed to helping the school district, Iacoboni was always there for his family.

"It's so sad, I know his parents depended on him a lot, and they were so proud of his accomplishments," Kraft said. "To lose him when he's only 57, I'm sure it's very difficult."

Longtime Rostraver Township Commissioner Nick Lorenzo said he got to know Iacoboni over the past few years while serving together and described him as a "man you could trust."

"What I liked about Ralph is that he was always thinking about ways to develop the township, to make it better and help people," Lorenzo said. "And he did help a lot of people."

Iacoboni was chairman of health and welfare, and served as the board's liaison for the installation of a multi-million dollar stormwater and wastewater separation project.

"He did an excellent job, and we had good trust in one another," Lorenzo said. "I'm going to miss him. The township will miss him."

Township Commissioner Brian Sokol said he often crossed paths with Iacoboni on the political trail and respected him.

"Anytime you have someone who wants to dedicate their life to public service, and you lose them, it's difficult," Sokol said. "Ralph had all the ingredients to make a great public official."

Among his family members, Iacoboni leaves behind his parents, Ralph V. and Romilda J. Iacoboni, and two daughters, Tessa and Cara. His obituary appears on page 4A.

Staff Writer Jeff Pikulsky contributed to this report.

Yesteryear

At the 1960 Big 6 banquet at the Twin Coaches, the Mon Valley Sports Writers Association honored Belle Vernon's John Hewitt, a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. An outstanding scholar and captain of the football team, Hewitt received an award from the sports writers, a plaque from the Bellmar Booster Club represented by Bill Leithold and an oil portrait of himself.

Weather

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 56	High 61	High 68	High 67	High 68
Low 39	Low 45	Low 52	Low 50	Low 48

Specter mulls dietary supplement regs

The experience of a Phillies pitcher started the Pennsylvania senator thinking.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An influential senator is looking into whether Congress should re-regulate dietary supplements because steroids and other banned substances are finding their way into over-the-counter bodybuilding products.

Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Democrat and Philadelphia Phillies fan, is convening a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the issue Tuesday.

He said his interest was piqued in part by the case of Phillies pitcher J.C. Romero, who was suspended for 50 games this season after testing positive for androstenedione, a substance that slugger Mark McGwire used in the 1990s that was later banned by baseball.

Romero sued the manufacturer of an over-the-counter supplement earlier this year, arguing that it should bear the blame for his suspension because it misrepresented its products and ingredients.

"We're looking at whether there's adequate protection for consumers from getting these supplements which have steroids or steroid-like substances," Specter told The Associated Press in an interview. "These tainted products can cause life-threatening injuries, such as kidney failure and liver injury."

Congress deregulated the dietary supplements industry in 1994. Now, the Major League Baseball Players Association is pressing Congress to establish stricter reporting requirements for supplement manufacturers and tougher penalties for repeat offenders.

The union is lobbying Congress to require that supplements be analyzed by a federally certified lab that would determine the ingredients to be listed on the label.

Don Fehr, head of the baseball players union, said the lack of government regulation is especially problematic for amateur and professional athletes who might use over-the-counter supplements, because a positive test for a banned substance can lead to suspension.

"Players, like everyone else, have no idea what they're taking," Fehr said in an interview. "I'm sure there are some good supplement products in the market that are safe, effective and accurately identified. I hope these products can be protected.

"But as of now, there is no way a player or anyone else can know with certainty that what they are taking is accurately described on the label."

Iran issues warning

By The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran – Iranian lawmakers warned the U.S. and other world powers on Tuesday against further pressures over Tehran's disputed nuclear program just days ahead of a key international meeting.

On Thursday the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, as well as Germany, are set to meet with Iran in Geneva over the direction of its nuclear program, especially in the wake of the announcement of a previously unknown uranium enrichment facility.

The discovery of the facility and subsequent Iranian missile tests prompted a burst of criticism from the U.S. and its allies.

"If the 5+1 repeats the past mistakes, the parliament will put other decisions on agenda," lawmakers said in a statement, referring to the five members of the Security Council and Germany.

Parliament's warning could refer to a bill awaiting ratification in parliament that calls on the government to speed up its uranium enrichment activities.

Uranium processing is a key aspect of any nuclear power program as the mineral needs to be enriched to fuel a nuclear reactor producing electricity — or to be turned into bombmaking material.

Pioneer (FROM PAGE ONE)

church service will take place 11 a.m. on the Fisher Stage.

Outside Sampey Park, other attractions include the Mary Fuller Frazier House on Circle Street, where there will be a display of pioneer dresses a genealogy room and household furnishings, The Old State Bank Museum will be open on Liberty Street.

Volunteers comprise the senior and junior National Honor Society from Frazier High School, the Daughters of American Colonists and the Perryopolis Fine Arts Club.

Transportation via golf carts and a wagon will be provided throughout the park.

Admission to Pioneer Days is free, but donations will be accepted for maintenance costs.

The Perryopolis Heritage Society is seeking additional volunteers. For information, call (724) 326-8610.

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Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Tartt (FROM PAGE ONE)

three times a month to Howard Springer. The jewelry usually involved items others traded him in exchange for pills.

Szakal said the Springers loaned him money – $10 to $400 – at least eight times. He had dinner with the couple three or four times that year, he said.

Szakal said he and John Estok stole coins and jewelry from Szakal's mother in December 2007, selling all but one ring to a store in Squirrel Hill.

Szakal said he was at his mother's home the day after she reported the thefts to Rostraver Township police. He never believed she would prosecute him for the thefts, Szakal testified.

Szakal said that in February 2008, co-conspirator Justin Welch told him Gregory Carpenter and Tartt, also charged in the case, wanted him to get them in to the Springer home to rob the couple.

"I wasn't feeling it; it wasn't right," Szakal said.

Szakal testified that the plot called for him to go into the home, coming out twice to smoke during the visit. The second smoke would be the sign for Tartt to come in and rob the couple.

He said Tartt rode with him to the Springers' house that night. Szakal said he was unarmed, but Tartt had a gun.

When he went out each time to smoke, he called Welch.

"The more I talked to the Springers, the more I didn't want to do it," Szakal said.

Welch told him they had to go through with it, he claimed.

Szakal said he was too scared to back away from the plan. Tartt was "amped up," he said.

He testified that when Tartt came in, Tartt ordered everyone to hit the ground. Szakal did, but Howard Springer did not.

"He was looking at me like he knew I had something to do with it," Szakal said of the victim.

Szakal said he ran out of the house, but ran back in after he heard the first shot.

He claimed Tartt shot the couple and then ordered him to take the money. They left and later returned to retrieve a bottle of green tea Szakal left at the scene.

Szakal testified that Carpenter asked him to take him to Monessen to buy heroin. Szakal also got high that night to clear his mind about what had occurred earlier in the evening.

"Basically, I couldn't believe what happened," Szakal said. "I was scared out of my mind."

Szakal said Tartt and two other men broke into his house in the early morning of March 5. He called 911.

"Honestly, I thought Tecko was going to kill me," Szakal said.

Szakal said he spent the next few days with the co-conspirators, going out to eat and shopping because he didn't want them to think he had been changed by the events.

On March 9, he was arrested and taken to the state police barracks in Rostraver Township.

Szakal testified that after twice telling state police Tartt was the shooter, Szakal confessed to the crimes because troopers told him that was the only way he could avoid the death penalty.

As he left the stand following his testimony, Szakal looked toward his fiance, Nicole Cusmano, and mouthed, "I'm sorry" before shrugging his shoulders.

In the afternoon session, he faced cross-examination by Washington County Assistant District Attorney Craig McKay.

McKay asked Szakal why he told police he witnessed the crime. He noted that Szakal initially denied his involvement in the thefts of his mother and said he wasn't even at the Springers' home the night of the killings.

McKay recounted for Szakal all the defendant admitted in a taped confession. He said Szakal admitted to arranging the robbery. Szakal said he told police "what they wanted to hear."

"They didn't put words in your mouth. Those are your words, aren't they?" McKay asked.

He recounted how Szakal said in the taped confession that he removed his bloody clothes, stole money at the scene and went on a spending spree with the stolen cash.

"Tecko Tartt didn't even know the poor Springers," McKay said. "You set the whole thing up."

McKay told Szakal he never did anything to help the Springers.

"I was frozen in fear," Szakal said.

"You were frozen in fear," McKay replied.

McKay said Szakal "watched these gruesome murders," and then decided he "might as well rob them."

Szakal said he was too afraid of Tartt to do anything.

"What you're saying, Mr. Szakal, is everyone is lying but you," McKay said.

Before her son taking the stand, Christine Myers testified that she discovered antique coins and jewelry had been stolen from her closet in February 2008. The missing items comprised coins valued at $15,000 to $20,000, a diamond-studded tennis bracelet valued at $5,000 and her husband's wedding band.

She reported the thefts to Rostraver Township police to "teach Jerry a lesson," and never intended to "follow through" on the report she filed with police. She didn't show up for a preliminary hearing on the charges police filed.

Looking at logs of the Springers' precious metals business, Myers said Szakal sold only the wedding band to the Springers, receiving $20.

In testimony earlier in the day, Michele Kaczmarek testified that she saw two men in a two-tone truck in the Springers' neighborhood the night of the killings.

The prosecution contends Szakal acted alone.

In cross-examination by McKay, Kaczmarek said the truck was similar to Szakal's, but could not say if it was the same vehicle.

Dr. William Manion, a forensic pathology expert from New Jersey, testified that a cut on Szakal's foot was caused by something being dropped on the foot, not from kicking Nancy Springer in the head several times.

Szakal later claimed he dropped a CD changer on his foot and that Welch knew that when he told police the defendant cut his toe while kickir g Nancy Springer.

Closing statements in the case were expected to be delivered this morning.

Valley briefs

Armed robbery suspect in jail

A juvenile wanted in connection with the Sept. 23 armed robbery of a Monessen store is lodged in the Westmoreland County Prison.

Police said Duwone Johnson, 17, of 217 Dunseith St., Pittsburgh, has been charged as an adult with armed robbery in connection with the incident.

He turned himself in at the police department Monday, after he learned that police were looking for him for the crime.

According to police, Johnson walked into Pasterick's Place, 207 Knox Ave., at 1:26 p.m. on Sept. 23, brandished a gun and demanded money from the store attendant.

He escaped on foot with an undetermined amount of money.

After his arrest, Johnson was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso, of Monessen, and remanded to the county jail in lieu of $25,000 straight cash bond.

Voter registration deadline Monday

Residents who wish to vote in the Nov. 3 general election must be registered by Monday.

Prospective voters can register at their respective county election bureau office during normal operating hours.

Registration-by-mail forms are available at armed services recruitment centers, area agencies on aging, at many branches of the Postal Service and a number of state, county and municipal offices.

Those who have moved or have changed their name or party affiliation must notify theirs county elections office by Monday.

Reward set for dogfighting info

The Humane Society of the United States and the state Attorney General's Office have announced a new reward program offering up to $5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in illegal dog fighting.

The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals received more than 400 complaints about dog fighting between January and June, officials said Monday. The organization received more than 245 complaints about dog fighting last year.

People with information about animal fighting are asked to call local police or the Humane Society of the United States' Dog Fighting Hotline at (877) 847-4787.

Hearing continued for alleged stalker

A Fayette County woman accused of stalking a former state police commander is still waiting to be transferred from jail to Torrance State Hospital for a court-ordered competency evaluation, despite a six-week-old judge's order and the absence of a waiting list at the hospital.

The delay forced Judge Gerald R. Solomon to continue a pretrial hearing that was to be held Monday morning for Roseanne Abbott, 32, of Old Wynn Road, Georges.

Solomon granted the continuance after Abbott's attorney, Bernadette Tummons, indicated the evaluation must be completed before the hearing is conducted.

S.C. Spangler/For The Valley Independent

Relaxing on a park bench in front of Coover Hall on the California University campus, accounting junior student Lisa Domankos, 38, of Perryopolis, reads a paper and eats her lunch in the Indian Summer sun light on Monday afternoon.

Woman to claim self defense in boyfriend's stabbing death

Brownsville resident Dayna McMaster facing trial in the death of Clarence Blair III.

By LIZ ZEMBA
For The Valley Independent
lzemba@tribweb.com

A Fayette County woman accused in the fatal stabbing of her boyfriend will claim self-defense at trial, according to her attorney.

Dayna McMaster, 32, of Brownsville, was held for trial Monday on a single count of criminal homicide in the June 26 death of Clarence Blair III after a preliminary hearing before Redstone District Judge Mike Defino Jr.

McMaster is accused by state police at Belle Vernon of fatally stabbing Blair, 46, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. as the two were parked on a gravel road near Cardale Elementary School in Redstone.

McMaster drove Blair to Uniontown Hospital after the stabbing, where he was pronounced dead.

Trooper Louis Serafini yesterday testified McMaster admitted to the stabbing during an interview at the state police barracks at Uniontown.

McMaster allegedly told police she stabbed Blair with a knife she had taken from his truck and hidden under her leg before they parked on the gravel road.

"He came at her, at which time she raised the knife up and stabbed him one time in the chest," Serafini testified.

McMaster told troopers Blair had his hands on her neck when she stabbed him, Serafini testified. When she was taken into custody, McMaster had bruises on her neck and a bloody, swollen upper lip, Serafini testified.

McMaster's attorney, Jim Davis of Uniontown, indicated yesterday McMaster will claim self defense at trial.

Belle Vernon man nabbed for drugs

Kevin Savko is the 25th suspected drug dealer arrested in Monongahela this year.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

MONONGAHELA – A Belle Vernon man was arrested for dealing drugs Monday afternoon as the city's police department continued its war against illegal narcotics activity.

Police Chief Brian Tempest said Kevin M. Savko, 41, was arrested after he sold crack cocaine to an undercover agent for the Washington County Drug Task Force on the 1200 block of West Main Street.

Tempest said the arrest culminated a two-month investigation during which Savko was alleged to have sold either cocaine or crack cocaine to an undercover agent five times.

Savko was charged with five counts each of possession of a controlled substance, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and criminal use of a communications facility.

He also was charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

He was taken for arraignment before Magisterial District Judge Mark Wilson, of Monongahela, and sent to the Washington County Corrections Facility when he was unable to post $100,000 straight cash bond.

Tempest said that the arrest of Savko marked the 25th suspected drug dealer to be arrested in the city this year.

"I'm not talking about picking somebody up with possession of a little marijuana," said Tempest.

"We're talking about someone who is considered a serious drug trafficker in this community. These people are actually dealing the drugs.

"At some point, these people are going to get the message we're serious about not putting up with this activity in our city."

Rendell sets new budget timetable

Governor says next Tuesday should be "the very, very latest" to get the deal done.

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — Negotiators continued to haggle over the details holding up Pennsylvania's state budget Monday - 10 days after Gov. Ed Rendell and top-ranking lawmakers trumpeted a breakthrough agreement they said would soon end a three-month-old impasse.

Remaining sticking points included how to implement proposals to add table games such as blackjack and poker to the state's slots casinos and a new tax on some small games of chance — two sources of new revenue crucial to filling the state's recession-driven multibillion-dollar shortfall.

Rendell said after meeting with leaders of three of the Legislature's four caucuses that they would attempt to send him the bills that make up the annual spending plan by Sunday, "Tuesday at the very, very latest."

"I'm not satisfied with the pace of where we are, and neither are they," Rendell said.

The Democratic governor also urged the General Assembly to convene and stay in session until the plan is passed and signed into law. The Senate planned to do so, but House Democratic caucus spokesman Brett Marcy said details regarding that chamber's schedule after Wednesday's voting session were not available.

"We've had time," Rendell said. "We should be able to get this done, no ifs, ands or buts about it. And there are a lot of people out there who are depending on us to get this done."

Rendell said he was not worried that the handshake budget deal was falling apart in the face of some opposition to particular elements, including drilling for gas on state land and the small games of chance tax.

"There's always opposition to certain parts of the budget," he said.

Wrapping things up by Sunday would require legislative leaders to resolve all elements still in dispute and then get the budget bills through the politically divided Legislature.

"They agreed that they would work towards that goal, and they thought that goal was achievable," Rendell said.

House Republicans, who oppose the size of the budget and its new taxes, said they were not invited to the meeting. They hold 99 seats in the 203-member House, not a majority but enough to doom the budget if only a few Democrats defect.

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, R-Delaware, said he was encouraged by the House Democratic leaders' projections of their members' support for the plan.

"As each day passes, the number of open issues gets smaller and shorter," he said. "The most unresolved issue, if you'll call it that, is the table games issue."

He said talks centered on how to handle casinos at resorts, the fee to charge for table-games licenses and the rate at which they will be taxed.

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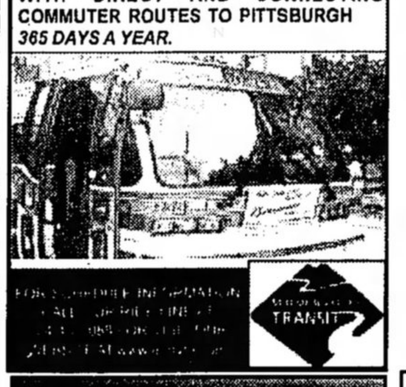

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THE Valley INDEPENDENT

THE QUIZ

THE Valley INDEPENDENT

NEWSFACE:

I am the first woman to hold Germany's highest office. I have served as chancellor since 2005, and am considered one of the most powerful women in the world. Over the weekend, I won a second term, along with a center-right majority. This election was a change from the 2005 election, when my conservative party just squeaked past the more liberal Social Democrats. Now I have a lot on my plate, as I try to help my country's, out of a deep recession. Who am I?

1. On Capitol Hill, (CHOOSE ONE: Deval Patrick, Paul Kirk), a former Democratic Party chairman, was sworn in as the interim successor to the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

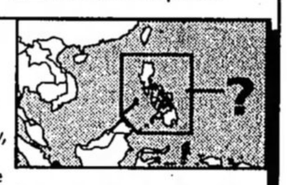
2. ..?.. fired long-range missiles Monday, days after the disclosure that it had been secretly developing an underground uranium enrichment facility.
___Israel ___China ___Iran ___Pakistan

3. Sunday was the ninth time that Tiger Woods and ..?.. finished 1-2 in a tournament.

4. President Obama has raised the possibility of shortening ..?... (CHOOSE ONE: the school year, summer vacation) for school children.

5. Pope Benedict XVI held an open-air Mass on Monday during a three-day visit to the heavily secular country ..?...
___Germany ___Spain ___Poland ___the Czech Republic

NEWSPLACE:



This Southeast Asian nation appealed for international help Monday after Tropical Storm Ketsana struck Saturday, killing at least 140 people in the nation's north. At least 32 people were reported missing, and forecasters warned that a new storm could strike this week. Tens of thousands of residents were displaced from their homes due to the nation's worst flooding in 42 years, which also triggered deadly landslides. Name this country.

6. The ..?.. broke a 19-game losing streak, the second longest in NFL history, by beating the Washington Redskins 19-14.
___Green Bay Packers ___Detroit Lions ___Dallas Cowboys
___Minnesota Vikings

7. Government troops in ..?.. raided and closed two media groups that have been critical of the interim government.
___Guatemala ___Zimbabwe ___Thailand ___Honduras

8. The animated film (CHOOSE ONE: "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," "Up") took in $24.6 million to remain No. 1 at the box office for a second straight weekend.

9. (CHOOSE ONE: Russell Baker, William Safire), a conservative columnist who long wrote for the New York Times, died over the weekend.

10. President Barack Obama will travel to Denmark to support ..?..'s bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics.
___Los Angeles ___New York City ___Phoenix ___Chicago

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91 to 100 points *TOP SCORE!* 71 to 80 points *Good*
81 to 90 points *Excellent* 61 to 70 points *Fair*

ANSWERS

NEWSFACE: Angela Merkel *(15 points for correct answer)*
NEWSPLACE: The Philippines *(10 points for correct answer)*
(5 points for each correct answer)
1-Paul Kirk; 2-Iran; 3-Phil Mickelson; 4-summer vacation; 5-the Czech Republic; 6-Detroit Lions; 7-Honduras; 8-Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs; 9-William Safire; 10-Chicago

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RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

IACOBONI — Ralph Iacoboni, 57, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), on Monday, Sept. 28. Leonard J. Parzynski Funeral Home, Belle Vernon.*

MASON — Robert L. Mason Sr., 68, of Belle Vernon, on Friday, Sept. 25. Ferguson Funeral Home Inc. and Cremation Service, Belle Vernon.*

MUCCINO, Mario Sr., 80, of Dunlevy, formerly of Monessen, on Monday, Sept. 28. Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home Inc. and Cremation Services, Monessen.

PREVIOUS DEATHS
FLOYD, Ja-Lyon*
SICHI, Mona*
* See death notice

Ja-Lyon Floyd
Pittsburgh

Ja-Lyon Johnson Floyd, 5, of Pittsburgh, while falling, was caught by heavenly angels on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009. Funeral arrangements have been gently placed to the HOUSE OF JACKSON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Donora.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Ralph Iacoboni
Belle Vernon
(Rostraver Township)

Ralph Iacoboni, 57, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), died Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, at 3:40 am at West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh. Born Oct. 4, 1951, in North Charleroi, he was the son of Ralph V. and Romilda J. Nesti Iacoboni of North Belle Vernon. A lifelong resident of Belle Vernon, Mr. Iacoboni was a member of St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, a graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was partner/owner of Val's Car Wash and Beer Distributor, served as a Belle Vernon Area School Board member for eight years and presently served as a Rostraver Township commissioner. He coached the Belle Vernon Wildcats midget football League for 23 years, was a member of the East Belle Vernon Athletic club, Hungarian Club of Pricedale, and the Belle Vernon Musical Society and loved to snow ski and golf with his family and friends. In addition to his parents he is survived by two daughters, Tessa Iacoboni of Philadelphia and Cara Iacoboni of Belle Vernon; a granddaughter, Kazmira Iacoboni; his brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Rosemary Iacoboni of North Belle Vernon; sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Tom Mavrikas of North Belle Vernon; three nieces, Angela Julia, Gina Lucia and Maria Rose Iacoboni; and three nephews, Ryan, Anthony and Dominic Mavrikas. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the LEONARD J. PARZYNSKI FUNERAL HOME. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the funeral home with the Rev. Lawrence L. Manchas officiating. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Leonard J. Parzynski Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated, 626 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, 724-929-6183. Interment will take place in Belle Vernon Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made in memory of Ralph Iacoboni to the Belle Vernon Wildcats 32 Mulberry St., Belle Vernon, Pa., 15012, attention: Jesse Cramer, or to St. Sebastian School. Condolences accepted at the funeral homes Web site, www.parzynskifuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Robert L. Mason Sr.
Belle Vernon

Robert L. Mason, Sr., 68, of Belle Vernon, went to be with the angels on Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, in Mon Valley Hospital. A son of the late Lowman and Eleanor Hilty Mason, he was born in Belle Vernon on Jan. 25, 1941. Protestant by faith, he was a member of the Belle Vernon American Legion Post 659, the Fairhope Rod and Gun Club and was an organizer and charter member of the Mon Valley Chordsmen. A lifelong resident of Belle Vernon, Bob was an avid hunter and fisherman, loved woodworking and managed the Belle Vernon Moose softball team for 10 years. A U.S. Army veteran, he served with the field artillery, service battalion, 2nd howitzer division. He had worked as a carpet installer for the former Stern's Furniture Company and retired from the Allenport Plant of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Judy Swaney Mason; one daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Bill Owens of Belle Vernon; one son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Tina Mason of Newell; three sisters, Janice Garletts of Mt. Pleasant, Diane Angel and Rebecca Pezzelle, both of Belle Vernon; and two grandchildren, Meghan Betham and William Owens, both of Belle Vernon. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Emily Griest. Graveside services will be Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, at 11 a.m., with Rev. J.E. Mitchell officiating. The FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC., 724-929-5300, 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, is handling arrangements. www.FergusonFuneralHomeAndCrematory.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mario "Mooch" Muccino Sr.
Dunlevy
Formerly of Monessen

Mario "Mooch" Muccino Sr., 80, of Dunlevy, formerly of Monessen, died Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc. Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced in tomorrow's edition by the DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave. Monessen (724-684-8750) www.dalfonso-billick.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mona Sichi
Belle Vernon

Mona F. Sichi, 80, of Belle Vernon, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, in Country Care Manor. A daughter of the late Felix and Jay Johnson Franks, she was born on March 21, 1929. A lifelong resident of Belle Vernon, Mona was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Belle Vernon. Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Armand Jr. and Pamela Sichi of Belle Vernon and Barry and Terri Sichi of Monongahela; and two grandchildren, Joshua Sichi of Belle Vernon and Richard Sichi and wife Elizabeth of New Eagle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Armand "Mundo" Sichi Sr. in 1998; and one sister, Margaret Eitzen. Friends will be received 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC., 724-929-5300, 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon. www.FergusonFuneralHomeAndCrematory.com Funeral services will be in the funeral home on Wednesday at 10 a.m., with the Rev. David Zona officiating. Interment will follow in Belle Vernon Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Diabetes Education Day

Sponsored by: Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology
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Saturday, October 3 **9 a.m. to Noon**
Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital

Featuring:

- Proper Care of Your Feet - Reducing the Risk of Foot Ulcers
- What Is Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Understanding the Glycemic Index
- Health Information Booths Including "Ask The Diabetes Educator"

Although the program is free and open to the public, advance registration is requested at 724-258-1148.

For more information on Diabetes Education, please visit the Health Library link on Monongahela Valley Hospital's website, monvalleyhospital.com

MVH Monongahela Valley Hospital HEALTH CARE

POLICE LOG

Monessen

■ Taft Jones, 22, of 717 Rostraver St., Monessen, was charged with public drunkenness 12:50 p.m. Sept. 28 on the 300 block of Third Street.

Monongahela

■ George Sickman, 47, of 130 Fourth Ave., New Eagle, was charged with public drunkenness and disorderly conduct 10 p.m. Sept. 26 as a result of an incident that took place on Seventh Avenue in New Eagle.

State Police, Belle Vernon

■ Zachery Brown, 23, of Perryopolis, was charged with criminal mischief at 10:30 p.m. Sept. 22 on Constitution Street, Perryopolis.

■ Veronica Milesky, of Don Street, Union Township, reported a woman knocked on her door Sunday and demanded money while holding a knife. The woman fled the scene after getting $5.

■ Mark H. DeShields, 30, and Barbara Ann Kroskie, 28, both of Fayette City, were charged with disorderly conduct at Tom and Vic's Tavern, Main Street, Fayette City, at 12:20 a.m. Friday.

Southwest Regional

■ Daniel Stanley, 60, of 7 Springwood Place, Hampton, Va., reported 10:59 a.m. Sept. 28 that he discovered someone had struck and damaged his Lincoln Continental while it was parked on Adams Street in Belle Vernon. Police said the hit-and-run driver may have been driving a light-colored full body truck. Anyone with information is asked to call Southwest Regional Police at (724) 929-8484.

CORRECTION

In our Senior Snapshot feature, which appeared on Page 7A in Friday's edition, we indicated that Margaret Swaka's most historic moment was seeing President Theodore Roosevelt in Homestead.

She actually recalled seeing President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In Loving Memory Of
Our Mother
Mildred L. Humphries
Who went to sleep one year ago today, September 29, 2008.
She is sadly missed by her children
Millie Blount of Atlanta, GA,
Carroll D. Humphries of Monessen, PA
& Haleloke Khammungkhune of
San Diego, CA.

Last of 'The Silhouettes' dies of cancer at age 69

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Rev. John "Bootsie" Wilson, a former lead singer and last surviving member of the soul group The Silhouettes, died Sept. 21. He was 69.

Wilson, who was battling cancer and a kidney ailment, died at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., said his wife, Pauline.

The Philadelphia native joined The Silhouettes in 1961, after the original lead singer left the group, perhaps best known for the 1958 smash hit "Get a Job," which stayed at No. 1 for 13 consecutive weeks. It was among the first rhythm and blues songs to cross over and become No. 1 on the pop charts.

Ten years later, Wilson recorded the song with the group, re-branded as The New Silhouettes, on the album, "The Original and New Silhouettes — '58/68 Get A Job."

Other notable recording by the group was the 1962 "Move On Over."

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

The following cases were heard Monday at Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner's office in West Newton:

■ Charges of identity theft and false identification to law enforcement authorities against Jordan M. Marish, 20, of 928 Louise Ave., Belle Vernon, were withdrawn and a disorderly conduct charge was filed. Marish was charged after an incident March 29 at Just a Tavern in North Belle Vernon.

■ Charges of simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, harassment and criminal mischief against Brett Toman, 36, of 405 Highland St., North Belle Vernon, were dismissed because the victim did not testify. Toman was charged after an incident Aug. 17 at 405 Highland St. in North Belle Vernon.

■ Jamie L. Morriston, 32, of 317 Broad Ave., waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Morriston was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after an incident Aug. 2 at the BP gas station in North Belle Vernon.

■ A warrant was issued against Kristopher Kamm Laughlin, 25, of 529 N. Sixth St., Clairton, for failure to appear for a preliminary hearing. Laughlin was charged with possession of a controlled substance, drugs, device or cosmetic and possession of drug paraphernalia after an incident June 21 at 1440 Willowbrook Road in Rostraver Township.

■ Charges of simple assault and harassment against Gerald L. Plassio, 51, of 702 Stahl Road, Smithon, were dismissed because the alleged victim did not testify. Plassio was charged after an incident July 7 on the 800 block of Broad Avenue in North Belle Vernon.

■ Cynthia Anne Dixon, 46, of 921 Broad Ave., Apt. 3 Rear, North Belle Vernon waived her right to a preliminary hearing. Dixon was charged with false identification to law enforcement authorities after an incident July 7 on the 800 block of Broad Avenue.

■ Charges of resisting arrest, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct against Stephanie Marie Danny, 20, of 162 N. Second St., West Newton, were withdrawn and a summary citation for criminal trespass was issued. Danny was charged after an incident Aug. 17 at the First Church of God in West Newton.

■ Michael James Lender, 18, of 365 Vernon Drive, West Newton, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Lender was charged with criminal conspiracy, criminal attempt, theft and corruption of minors after an incident Aug. 21 at Vine Street Part in West Newton.

■ Marsden Patrick Balaska, 40, of, 1841 Scenery Drive, Belle Vernon, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Balaska was charged with retail theft after an incident Aug. 26 at the BP gas station in North Belle Vernon.

■ Charlene Diane Moff, 51, of 211 Billo Drive, New Derry, waived her right to a preliminary hearing. Moff was charged with five counts of retail theft after incidents Aug. 9 at Cedar Creek Park in Rostraver Township.

■ Cory Shay Miller, 24, of 546 Allen Ave., Belle Vernon, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Miller was charged with driving under the influence - general impairment, driving under the influence - highest rate of alcohol and traffic violations after an incident Aug. 25 on the 500 block of Henry Street in North Belle Vernon.

■ Leslie Ann Steban, 32, of 315 Darr St., Van Meter, waived her right to a preliminary hearing. Steban was charged with retail theft after an incident May 23 at Sheetz in Rostraver Township.

■ Elton John Tressler, 34, of 384 Wesley Chapel Road, Scottdale, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Tressler was charged with accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property, damage to attended vehicle or property, accidents involving death or personal injury, accidents involving death or personal injury while not properly licensed and driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked (dui-related) after an incident March 28 at Route 51 and Concord Lane in Rostraver Township.

VALLEY BRIEFS

CAP unit to host open house

The Washington Composite Squadron, the local unit of the Civil Air Patrol, will host an open house to welcome interested youth and adults 6:30 p.m. Wednesday next to the Washington County Airport. The open house will include explanations of Civil Air Patrol education, missions, and cadet programs, as well as a picnic style meal. This month completes the second full year of service for this squadron. The unit now has 38 members and is going strong. More information about Civil Air Patrol is available at www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Monessen Alumni Night changed

Former band members, majorettes, color guards, drum majors, band directors, and cheerleaders are invited to participate in the Monessen Alumni Night Oct. 16 at the Monessen Memorial Stadium. To participate, contact Hilary Brown, band director, via email hsbrown@wiu.k12.pa.us or call (724) 684-7100. For cheerleader participants, contact Linda Popp, cheer sponsor at the Monessen Elementary Center at (724) 684-4456.

The date of the event has been changed.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 29

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2009. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Sept. 29, 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

On this date:

■ In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

■ In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

■ In 1918, Allied forces began their decisive breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line during World War I.

■ In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

■ In 1979, Pope John Paul II began the first papal visit to Ireland as he arrived for a three-day tour.

■ In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

■ In 1988, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., marking America's return to manned space flight following the Challenger disaster.

■ **Ten years ago**: Vice President Al Gore abruptly moved his presidential campaign headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Nashville, Tenn., to get "out of the Beltway and into the heartland."

■ **Five years ago**: A video surfaced showing Kenneth Bigley, a British hostage held by Iraqi militants, pleading for help between the bars of a makeshift cage. (Bigley was later killed.)

■ **One year ago**: On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 777 points after the House defeated, 228-205, a $700 billion emergency rescue for the nation's financial system, leaving both parties and the Bush administration scrambling to pick up the pieces.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Actress Lizabeth Scott is 87. Actress Anita Ekberg is 78. Actor Eddie Barth is 78. Writer-director Robert Benton is 77. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 74. Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi is 73. Actor Ian McShane is 67. Lech Walesa, the former president of Poland, is 66. Television-film composer Mike Post is 65. Actress Patricia Hodge is 63. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 61. Country singer Alvin Crow is 59. Broadcast journalist Gwen Ifill is 54. Former child actor Ken Weatherwax (TV: "The Addams Family") is 54. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 53. Singer Suzzy Roche (The Roches) is 53. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 52. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 51. Actor Roger Bart is 47. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 46. Actress Jill Whelan is 43. Actor Luke Goss is 41. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 41. Actress Erika Eleniak is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 40. Country singer Brad Cotter ("Nashville Star") is 39. Actress Natasha Gregson Wagner is 39. Actress Rachel Cronin is 38. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 36. Actor Alexis Cruz is 35. Actor Zachary Levi is 29. Rock musician Josh Farro (Paramore) is 22.

Associated Press

Colleen Malone-Engel poses with her dog, Juniper, outside her home in Culver City, Calif. Malone-Engel's insurance rates basically doubled when she turned 50, as insurance companies charge higher premiums based on age.

Is it fair that growing older triggers higher premiums?

President Obama wants to restrict that trend as part of health care overhaul.

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Old people get sick more than young people, and in most states that adds up to them paying a lot more for their health insurance premiums.

President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats want to restrict that practice as part of a top-to-bottom reshaping of the nation's health care system, a change that will help them politically with aging Americans, skeptical about the government's plans. Urging them to do it is AARP, the powerful senior citizens' lobby, which says making older people pay more amounts to age discrimination.

On the opposite side is the health insurance industry, which says it's an unavoidable business decision because premiums are based on expected expenses and older people have higher health care costs.

Caught in the middle are people like Colleen Malone-Engel, 53, of Culver City, Calif., who says her insurance premiums jumped when she turned 50 even though she's in good health.

"I don't think it's fair," said Malone-Engel, whose name was provided to The Associated Press by AARP. "I understand why the insurance companies do that — because they know that older people need more health care — but I was pretty stunned to have that hit me at 50. Because 50 is still young."

Age rating has the biggest impact on people like Malone-Engel who are in their 50s or early 60s and buy coverage plans directly from insurers. Once they turn 65 they become eligible for Medicare and it's no longer an issue.

In states without restrictions on the practice — around a dozen limit it to one degree or another — insurance companies will typically charge six or seven times as much to older customers as to younger ones. For example, a 20-year-old might be able to buy an insurance plan for a monthly premium of $100 that would cost a 60-year-old $700.

The price difference could happen even if the 20-year-old is overweight, while the 60-year-old exercises and has no health problems. However, other factors, such as whether someone smokes, also are considered by companies when setting premiums.

House Democrats have proposed imposing an age rating limit of 2 to 1, meaning that a 60-year-old could only be charged twice as much as a 20-year-old based on age. That's the level embraced by AARP, but insurance companies say it could drive premium prices up for younger workers by as much as 59 percent. They say young people would be bearing larger costs because there would be less flexibility to charge older people more money.

An estimated 40 percent of the uninsured are between the ages of 18 to 34.

"We're very concerned that the impact is to raise rates so much for young people as to make it unaffordable," said Alissa Fox, a top lobbyist for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Higher rates could have the effect of discouraging younger people from buying insurance, resulting in fewer healthy people in the insured population and more costly premiums for all, Blue Cross and Blue Shield wrote in a joint letter with America's Health Insurance Plans.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

More training needed for war?

WASHINGTON (AP) — NATO's secretary general Monday said "things are going to have to change" in Afghanistan for the United States and its international allies to win the stalemated war.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, stopped short of calling for more combat troops to be sent to Afghanistan, as the Obama administration currently is debating.

Instead, he said a far stronger focus needs to be put on preparing Afghan military and civilian forces to take the lead in securing and building their nation. But Rasmussen also voiced doubts that the U.S. and NATO will be successful in preventing the Taliban and other extremists from again making Afghanistan a haven for terrorists.

Bank suspends ACORN dealings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bank of America Corp. is suspending its work with the housing affiliate of embattled community organizing group ACORN.

The decision comes as three Republicans in Congress ask Bank of America and 13 other financial institutions to give Congress a complete accounting of their dealings with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now or its affiliates.

In a statement, Bank of America said it would not enter into any further agreements with ACORN Housing Corp. until the bank is satisfied all issues have been resolved. ACORN Housing Corp. and Bank of America have worked together for years on mortgage foreclosure issues.

Threat to Obama subject of probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Secret Service is investigating an online survey that asked whether people thought President Barack Obama should be assassinated, officials said Monday.

The poll, posted Saturday on Facebook, was taken off the popular social networking site quickly after company officials were alerted to its existence. But, like any threat against the president, Secret Service agents are taking no chances.

"We are aware of it and we will take the appropriate investigative steps," said Darrin Blackford, a Secret Service spokesman. "We take of these things seriously."

The poll asked respondents "Should Obama be killed?" The choices: No, Maybe, Yes, and Yes if he cuts my health care.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

HARRISBURG (AP)— Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $1.22 million because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Monday's game.

Lottery officials said 184 players matched four numbers and won $265.50 each; 7,133 players matched three numbers and won $11.50 each; and 87,622 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Pennsylvania Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 02-14-15-25-39

The Valley Independent Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA — DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	1-3-5
NIGHT PICK 3:	2-7-9
DAY PICK BIG 4:	4-0-9-8
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	2-7-3-0
DAY QUINTO:	1-5-9-3-6
NIGHT QUINTO:	2-2-6-2-1
TREASURE HUNT:	4-6-11-14-17
CASH 5:	2-14-15-25-39
MIX & MATCH:	16-8-17-12-7

OHIO — DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	7-7-0
NIGHT PICK 3:	8-0-3
DAY PICK 4:	2-1-0-3
NIGHT PICK 4:	2-5-5-5
ROLLING CASH 5:	16-19-26-27-38
CLASSIC LOTTO:	4-5-9-18-37-39

WEST VIRGINIA — DAILY NUMBERS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

DAILY 3:	8-8-6
DAILY 4:	4-3-6-5
CASH 25:	8-13-16-17-18-21

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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THE Valley INDEPENDENT

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OUR OPINION

Immunity provision makes no sense

MORE THAN A FEW good ideas are contained in a Senate-passed gambling reform bill linked to legislation that would legalize table games — a key component of a proposed state budget deal.

Unfortunately, the bill also contains one idea so outlandishly silly that it should not be enacted into law in its present form.

That portion of the proposed law would allow the Gaming Control Board to grant immunity to witnesses testifying in gambling license investigations.

"If this immunity provision is enacted, it will handcuff real law enforcement," said Kevin Harley, spokesman for Attorney General Tom Corbett.

Corbett has been joined in opposing the bill by the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and officials from the Fraternal Order of Police and Pennsylvania State Troopers Association.

Their opposition is warranted because the bill, as currently written, would give the Gaming Control Board power that even real law enforcement agencies lack.

And given the poor track record of hiring that has dogged the Gaming Board almost since its inception, it makes no sense to give it power that rightfully has been withheld from the FBI, state police and other law enforcement agencies.

Some parts of the bill, as indicated earlier, are worthwhile.

It would, for instance, prohibit political contributions by gambling operators, institute a lifetime ban on casino owner and operator applicants with felony convictions and prevent future gambling board members from having outside employment.

But the bill should not become law as long as it contains the immunity proposal.

Do you agree? Do you disagree? The Valley Independent wants to hear from you. E-mail us at valleyletters@tribweb. com or write a letter to the editor. Include your phone number to allow for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit.

ANOTHER VIEW

The New York Times, on President Obama and the missile defense system:

President Obama made a sound strategic decision, scrapping former President George W. Bush's technologically dubious plan to build a long-range missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. Instead, the Pentagon will deploy a less-ambitious but more feasible system of interceptors and sensors, first on ships and later on land.

Mr. Bush's plan was flawed in three fundamental ways. The technology was nowhere near ready. The threat it was supposed to defend against an Iranian intercontinental ballistic missile was also years away. And the plan (and Mr. Bush's ham-fisted insistence on it) gave Moscow a far-too-convenient excuse to rail against the West's encroachment and shirk its responsibility to help contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The new system addresses the first two problems. The technology exists and can be deployed much sooner than the Bush system.

And it is intended to counter a more immediate danger: Iran's short- and medium-range missiles that could threaten Europe or Israel.

Still, managing the diplomacy particularly the disappointment of the Central Europeans and the politics in this country will require a very deft hand.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Look overseas for health models

Morton **KONDRACKE**

It's amazing that deliberations over U.S. health care reform involve next to no discussion of health plans in other industrialized countries, where everybody is covered, costs are lower and health outcomes are better.

For sure, reform opponents have cited foreign horror stories — delays in Canada, care denials in Britain — but advocates rarely cite the success of countries like France, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

A new book by Washington Post correspondent T.R. Reid, "The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care," should be the textbook for reformers, especially in the White House and Congress.

Reid traveled the world inspecting health plans and writes that his quest "makes it clear that other wealthy democracies can show us how to build a decent healthcare system, if that's what we want."

And, to debunk the first argument to be heard from the Tea Party set, he writes, "it's not all socialized medicine out there. Most wealthy countries rely on private-sector mechanisms to provide and/or pay for health care.

"Indeed, some foreign health systems are more privatized than ours."

He's referring to Germany and Switzerland, where seniors continue to rely on private insurance, whereas most U.S. seniors are on government-run Medicare, which is going broke.

As a matter of fact, Reid told me, Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., did invite him last year to brief members, and he showed them his PBS documentary "Sick Around the World."

"And just from the questions and comments, I could tell that they got it," he said.

But this year, "nobody who read my book would have written the Baucus bill," Reid said.

Baucus' bill, currently the centerpiece of the health debate, does contain two elements of foreign systems, he said — a requirement that insurance companies cover everyone regardless of health and an individual mandate expanding coverage.

However, Baucus' bill — to save money — doesn't really cover everyone. It would cover 29 million of the uninsured but leave about 17 million citizens and legal residents still without insurance.

"If I had gone to another rich country and 9 percent of the people weren't covered by insurance, I would not have called that a successful plan," Reid said.

And, by relying heavily on state-run Medicaid, the Baucus bill would maintain what Reid calls the "crazy" multi-layer U.S. coverage system, while one of the key efficiencies of foreign systems is to cover everyone the same way.

Liberals in Congress want a nearly unified system — everyone in a single-payer system like Canada's — but Reid confirms that delays in treatment there are a reality.

To my mind, the best U.S. proposal for a rational health care system is the bipartisan Healthy Americans Act, co-sponsored by Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Bob Bennett, R-Utah, which would eliminate Medicaid and give poor people subsidies to buy private insurance.

The Wyden plan also has been scored by the Congressional Budget Office as "roughly revenue-neutral."

It would cover everyone, as well as offer them a range of choices of competitive private plans — and it has four GOP co-sponsors.

As Wyden says, "it combines what Republicans want — private insurance, choice and competition — with what Democrats want, universal coverage."

And yet, Wyden hasn't been able to persuade Baucus, President Barack Obama or other leaders of the merits of his legislation, largely because they think it will chaotically detach health insurance coverage from employment.

Wyden's plan would eliminate the tax exclusion for employer-provided benefits and give employees a tax credit to purchase their own insurance, but he insists that does not mean that everyone would leave their employers' plans.

Wyden's proposal, which he says closely resembles that in Holland, also has another key characteristic of all foreign systems — heavy regulation of insurance companies.

According to Reid, in France, Germany, Japan, Belgium and Switzerland, insurance companies are nonprofit entities that not only have to take all customers, but have to pay all claims — and quickly.

In most countries, they can make a profit on supplemental insurance, covering nonbasic services like Botox, Viagra and hair transplants, but not basic coverage.

Wyden would not force insurance companies to be nonprofit but would forbid insurance companies from charging different premiums based on age or gender.

Three elements of all successful foreign plans would be highly controversial in the United States: Governments "negotiate" or set prices of medical services and ration what will be paid for and what won't.

Also, doctors and hospitals in other countries are paid much less than in the United States — a half to a third for most doctors.

On the other hand, doctors have their educations paid for, so they don't have student loan burdens, and medical malpractice insurance costs are low because claims are not taken to court.

And consider the results: In France, everyone has an electronic health card containing digitized medical records.

Health spending per capita in France is $3,165, versus $7,000 in the United States.

On the Commonwealth Fund's quality ranking of countries according to "avoidable mortality" — that is, survival of successful treatment — France came in first and the United States 15th.

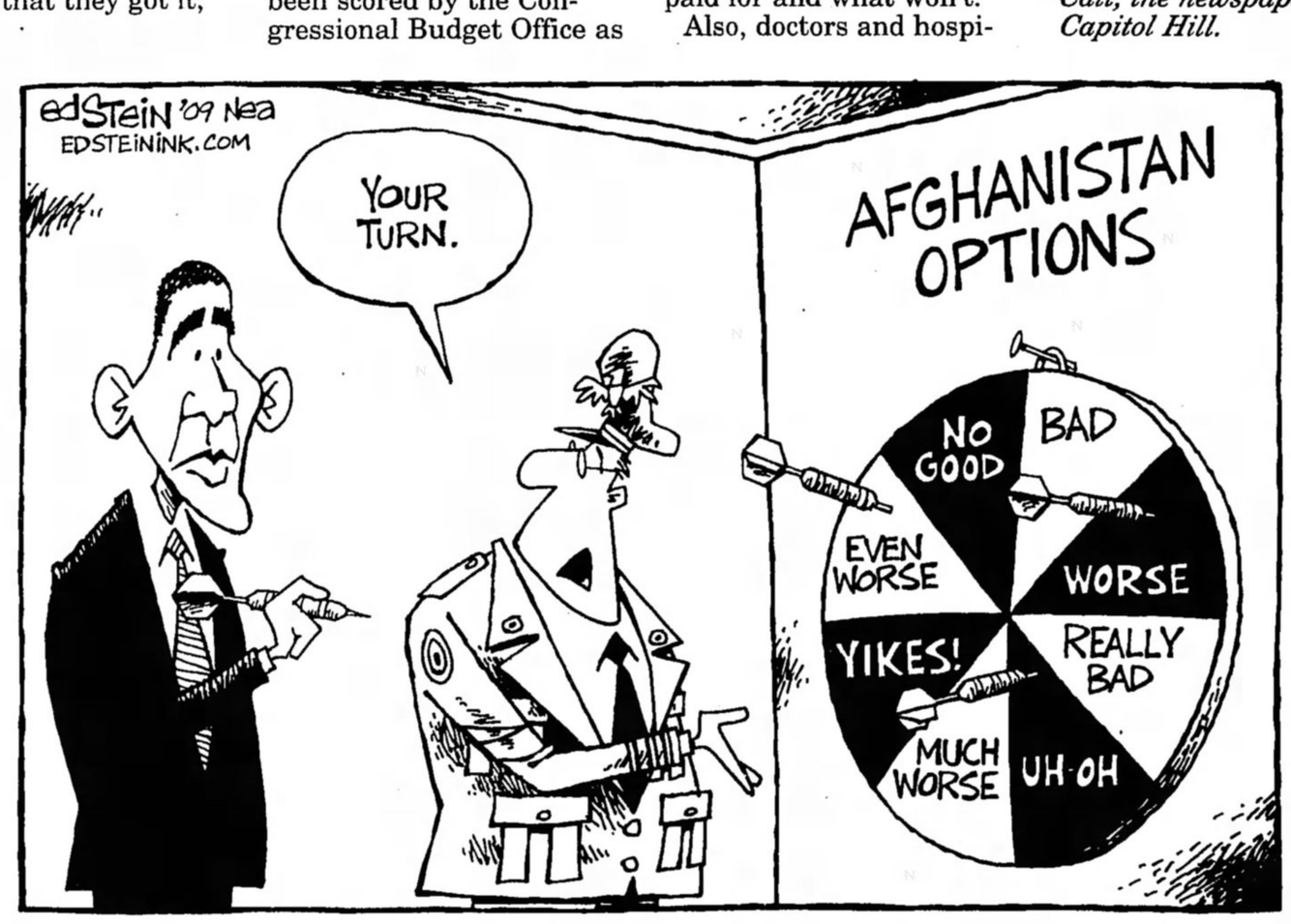
On the CIA's measure of life expectancy at birth, the United States ranks 47th, just ahead of Cyprus, and on the World Bank measure of "healthy life expectancy" — years lived before encountering disability — the United States was 24th.

"For all their problems," Reid writes, "the other industrialized countries tend to do better on ... coverage, quality, cost control, choice."

It's probably not necessary to duplicate all the government controls and restrictions that other countries employ, but clearly we can do better than we are doing.

And, instead of drafting a health care reform bill that's an amalgam of compromises among interest groups, it would be edifying to see Congress pass legislation that gave consumers choice, coverage and competition — and also put responsibility on them. Wyden's bill does that.

Morton Kondracke is executive editor of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.



Leading the nation in staffers

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

What a difference six years can make. In a recent letter, I inadvertently used figures for the size of legislative staffs from 2003 instead of 2009. A friend, Tim Potts of democracyrisingpa.com, reminded me of this fact. If you haven't seen Tim's Web site, try it as it's very informative.

In the letter, I compared the size of legislative staffs and mentioned New York exceeded ours by around 100. Information provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures proves we do have the largest staff of all the 50 states in 2009.

Pennsylvania is number one with 2,918 permanent staffers. New York is second with 2,676; Texas third with 2,090; California fourth with 2,067; Florida fifth with 1,457 and Illinois sixth with 980.

I do not suggest any staffer be laid off. Instead, retirements and resignations will take care of the reduction. There is absolutely no reason why the sixth state in population should have the largest full-time legislature and staff of all 50 states. Money saved here could help balance present and future budgets — hopefully two-year budgets.

Can a state go bankrupt? See the following:

A former Pennsylvania state employee was making an application for employment and asked the interviewer, "Does your company pay my hospital insurance?"

The interviewer replied, "No, you pay for it; it's deducted from your salary on paydays."

"Last place I worked they paid for it," the applicant replied.

"Did they give you a life insurance policy, too?"

"Sure!"

"A retirement plan?"

"Sure!"

"Three- and four-week vacations?"

"Yes, and they had big bonuses, many perks like gifts, free lunches, dinners, and ..."

"Why did you leave?"

"The state went bankrupt."

Could that really happen? Keep raising taxes and spending more than the revenue can cover; we may just find out the hard way.

Bill McIntyre
Camp Hill

NEWS

5 indicted in $806 million LeNature's 'Ponzi' scheme

All five could face up to life in prison if convicted of the charges against them.

By RICHARD GAZARIK
For The Valley Independent
rgazarik@tribweb.com

Former LeNature's CEO Gregory Podlucky and four others have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges they swindled banks and investors out of more than $800 million in what has been termed the largest fraud case in the region's history.

Podlucky, 49, of Ligonier Township was charged with tax evasion; mail, wire and bank fraud, and money laundering, according to a 29-count indictment unsealed by U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan.

The indictment was delivered Sept. 17 but not made public until Monday.

The five are charged with dramatically inflating the company's financial statements to potential lenders and investors in a complex "corporate Ponzi scheme" netting $806 million, authorities said.

Podlucky founded the Latrobe-based maker of flavored water, fruit juices and tea in 1992 and presided over it until November 2006, when it collapsed under allegations of gross mismanagement and a mountain of debt.

Also indicted were:

- Podlucky's brother Jonathan, 35, of Hempfield, former chief operating officer of the now-bankrupt company;
- Robert Lynn, 65, of Ligonier Township, a former vice president.
- Andrew Murin, 53, of McDonald, Washington County, a close friend of Gregory Podlucky and a company consultant.
- Donald Pollinger, no age available, an equipment broker from Charlotte, N.C.

The four face bank, wire and mail fraud charges, according to the indictment.

Postal inspectors and IRS agents arrested the Podluckys, Murin and Lynn yesterday morning at undisclosed locations, IRS spokesman Andrew Hromoko Jr. said.

Gregory Podlucky was released on $100,000 bond. Jonathan Podlucky, Murin and Lynn were freed on $50,000 bond. Pollinger will arrange to surrender to federal authorities in Pittsburgh at a later date, Buchanan said.

All five could face up to life in prison if convicted of the charges, Buchanan said.

Gregory Podlucky's attorney, Alexander Lindsay Jr. of Butler, did not return calls seeking comment.

"In this case, like in Enron, because of the magnitude of the fraud, it is the amount of fraud that is the most significant factor that would apply ... ," Buchanan said. "This was a very complex scheme in that it involved multiple financial institutions."

"We believe the LeNature's fraud is the largest fraud that's ever occurred in the Western District of Pennsylvania, " she added.

Records were falsified to portray LeNature's "as a successful, growing business" by company officials seeking financing to expand production when sales were virtually nonexistent, according to the indictment.

The defendants gave fictitious documents to company auditors, who certified that LeNature's books were accurate, paving the way for banks to grant loans, the indictment indicates.

Podlucky is accused of creating bogus checks, fraudulent money transfers and account statements "that appeared to verify the existence of business which never occurred and assets which never existed," according to the grand jury's findings.

IRS Special Agent-in-Charge Timothy Marsh said Gregory Podlucky ran a "corporate Ponzi scheme by falsely exaggerating the level of business activity."

"Their greedy ambitions not only violated federal law but negatively impacted their employees, investors, vendors and financial institutions," Marsh said.

Buchanan said the investigation is not over.

"We're going to make every effort to trace the proceeds of the fraud," she said.

The IRS charged Podlucky with filing false tax returns from 2003 through 2006, The indictment charges that Podlucky and his wife, Karla, filed joint returns for those years claiming a total income of more than $1.6 million when their income "was substantially in excess of the amount stated on the returns." Karla Podlucky has not been charged.

Pollinger operated his company out of his Charlotte house and falsely confirmed to auditors that he was holding more than $162 million in equipment deposits on behalf of LeNature's, according to the indictment.

Gregory Podlucky

The indictment accuses Podlucky of using some of the loans to buy gems and expensive jewelry.

Early in the three-year investigation, federal agents searching the LeNature's headquarters in Latrobe found a tunnel leading to a secret room where Podlucky had stashed an estimated $30 million worth of gems and jewelry, according to court documents.

Buchanan said if the fraud had continued, it was possible that a potential buyer would have considered purchasing LeNature's.

"If it had been sold, it would have resulted in a very large profit for the owners of LeNature's," she said.

Buchanan said the case is the largest in the history of the Western District of Pennsylvania, a 25-county federal court district centered in Pittsburgh.

The next closest fraud scheme involves the recent indictment of the former CEO of World Health Alternatives, a medical staffing firm in Wilkins, where the fraud could exceed $500 million, she said.

G-20 declared $35M success for Pittsburgh

Bean counters strive to measure local economic benefit of global gathering.

By JEREMY BOREN
For The Valley Independent
jboren@tribweb.com

Business and tourism experts Monday began counting the economic ripples emanating from the two-day Group of 20 economic summit.

"The immediate impact we've marked at $35 million in return," said Joe McGrath, CEO of VisitPittsburgh, a nonprofit tourism agency.

He could not provide a breakdown for that number but said half of the estimate is out-of-town dollars spent on hotels, restaurants, limos and taxi rides during the week of the summit, McGrath said. The other half came during the 45 days before the summit, from G-20 nation advance teams preparing for it.

When numbers are finally tabulated, at least some of the economic gain would be offset by business relocation costs and losses from closing, as well as the city's estimated $16 million spent for public safety.

Only about 20 percent of people who usually work and visit the Golden Triangle on weekdays were there last week - a deficit McGrath acknowledged hurt some Downtown businesses.

Visitors and business owners during the summit complained that high security around the David L. Lawrence Convention Center turned the district into a ghost town. Businesses yesterday said they are calculating how much the summit cost in lost revenue and relocation for Downtown employees who worked from other sites.

Kevin Joyce, owner of The Carlton and Eadie's Kitchen & Market, Downtown, estimated he lost as much as $50,000 in business from Wednesday through Friday.

The Carlton was open each day, but Eadie's closed Thursday and Friday because security fences made it all but inaccessible. He remains supportive of Pittsburgh's decision to host the summit but said security planners overreacted.

"We handled it wrong. ... If we're going to say we're a big-league city, the big leagues don't close their urban corridor" for events like this, Joyce said.

He stopped at The Capital Grille and Six Penn during the Thursday lunch hour and said they and the Carlton each had one group of diners.

"The city was open. This office was open. We did our best ... to encourage people to come to town," Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said. "Do I wish more people would have stayed open? Yes."

McGrath said he has heard the complaints, but some businesses benefited. The Japanese delegation, for example, asked McGrath's office to recommend the finest red wine made in Pennsylvania. They then purchased 200 bottles of it, he said, without disclosing his suggestion or the price of the wine.

"We heard, of course, from some people who did suffer in business," he acknowledged.

Region's pay behind other areas

Economists acknowledged the lower wages, but said the data did not take into consideration the region's lower cost of living.

By RICK STOUFFER
For The Valley Independent
rstouffer@tribweb.com

Workers in the Pittsburgh region on average earned 95 cents in 2008 for every dollar earned by workers nationwide, a survey found.

"Occupational Pay Comparisons for Metropolitan Areas in Pennsylvania, 2008," published Monday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, found the Pittsburgh-New Castle region scored what the bureau called "significantly below" the national average in six of nine occupational groups.

Those jobs groups included management, business and financial; professional and related; service; sales and related; office and administrative support, and construction and extraction.

The region scored higher, but didn't reach the average pay of workers nationwide, in categories for installation, maintenance and repair; production; and transportation and material-moving.

It's even worse in Johnstown, which trailed the national average by 14 percent. Johnstown workers earned 86 cents to the dollar their counterparts nationwide earned.

"With the exception of Reading, the metropolitan areas surveyed in Pennsylvania had pay calculations averaged across all occupations that were significantly different from the nation as a whole," said Sheila Watkins, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' regional commissioner.

Economists acknowledged the lower wages but said the bureau's data did not take into consideration the region's lower cost of living.

"A region's cost of living is very important," said Vera Krofcheck, research manager with the labor force development group Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board.

Cost of living data developed by Arlington, Va.-based The Council for Community and Economic Research shows this region fares well compared to areas larger and smaller than Pittsburgh.

Based on first-quarter data, with the U.S. average cost for consumer goods and services based at 100, Pittsburgh's 92.2 total was lower than the national average and was the third-lowest total among 16 regions nationwide. Only Indianapolis at 88.7 and St. Louis at 87.6 ranked lower.

Among regions with higher cost of living totals were Cincinnati, 92.4; Cleveland, 99.3; Morgantown, W.Va., 100.1, and Philadelphia, 122.6.

"We tend to look on an individual occupation basis, and that tends to show lower wages and salary in this area," said Harold Miller, president of Future Strategies, an economic consulting firm Downtown. "But the cost of living here definitely is lower than in many places."

Miller used as an example registered nurses. A year ago, the region's nursing pay ranked 39th of 40 areas nationwide. After factoring in Pittsburgh's cost of living, nurses' wages rose to 16th place among the 40 regions, Miller said.

Demand for food stamps, aid rises

By MIKE CRONIN
For The Valley Independent
mcronin@tribweb.com

A higher-than-average number of households in the Pittsburgh area received public assistance last year, according to census data released today.

Local assistance agencies say they have seen more demand in the past year.

"If I didn't have cash assistance and food stamps, we wouldn't have a place to live and we'd be very hungry," said Jessica Brown, 28, of Sharpsburg. The single mother is unemployed and has three boys, ages 3 weeks to 7 years. She received about $400 in food stamps and about $400 in cash assistance every month last year.

About 10.2 percent of households in the metro area received food stamps or monthly checks from the government in 2008, compared with the national average of 9.3 percent, the Census Bureau said.

That ranks the region at 145th out of the nation's 361 metro areas. About 11 percent of area households received cash or food stamps in 2005, according to the data.

The metro area includes 987,110 households in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Having a small immigrant population and large elderly population keeps Pittsburgh near the middle of the pack among metro areas, said Chris Briem, a regional economist at the University of Pittsburgh University Center for Social and Urban Research.

"Undocumented immigrants may not be eligible for aid programs, or may be fearful of applying for benefits," he said.

The percentage of senior citizens in the region dropped in recent years -- from 18 percent in the 1990s to 17.1 percent, Briem said -- but remains above the national level of 12.8 percent.

"Social Security has done a good job keeping the elderly just above the poverty level," Briem said of the number of people 65 and older in the Pittsburgh area.

Clergy Appreciation Month

PASTOR JOHN WILLIAMS
Gospel Church
Church Address, Pa
000-000-0000
Pastor, when we are sick or just need someone to talk to, you are always there for us. We are also blessed by your wife, Megan, in her teachings. We love you both.
YOUR CONGREGATION

EXAMPLE OF $30 AD AND YOUR MESSAGE (ACTUAL SIZE)

The Valley Independent will honor religious leaders in our monthly feature Jubilation on October 24th.

For just $30 or $45, you and members of your congregation can show your clergy how much they are appreciated with a "thank you" message and their picture or cross.

PASTOR MARK FERRENTIEN
Gospel Church
Church Address, Pa
000-000-0000
Pastor, when we are sick or just need someone to talk to, you are always there for us. We are also blessed by your wife, Kim, in her teachings. We love you both.
YOUR CONGREGATION

EXAMPLE OF $45 AD AND YOUR MESSAGE (ACTUAL SIZE)

Mail this coupon with your check or money order or simply fill out the Mastercard or Visa information below.
DEADLINE is October 21, 2008. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Clergy Person _____
Church _____
Church's Address _____
_____
Church's Phone _____
Message _____
_____
_____
_____
Your Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Day Time Phone _____
Charge to my Visa _____ Mastercard _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

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The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Fighting Wildfires

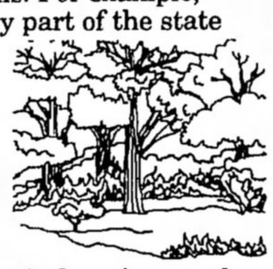
Firefighters Protect Our Lands

Have you seen reports about wildfires in the news? In the last six years, firefighters in California have been battling more wildfires than ever.

To learn more about these hard-working firefighters, The Mini Page talked to a fire chief in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Natural burning

Fire is a part of the natural balance in many ecosystems. For example, in California, every part of the state used to burn an average of every 25 years.



Fires help keep forests clean. They clear out the underbrush. That way, when the next fire comes, it doesn't spread as quickly or as far.

Fires are necessary to make certain seeds sprout. Without fires, many native plants won't grow in forests and grasslands.

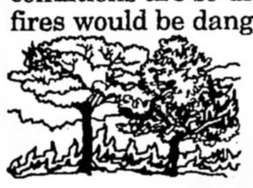
In some areas of the wilderness, firefighters let wildfires burn. They keep a close watch to be sure the fire won't become dangerous to people or their homes.

photo by Wes Schultz, courtesy California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Firefighters try to get ahead of the fire by wetting it down and clearing out any possible fuel. By removing brush and leaves from an area, firefighters create a firebreak, or a place where they hope the fire will stop.

Too great a risk

There are also times when weather conditions are so dry or windy that fires would be dangerous anywhere.



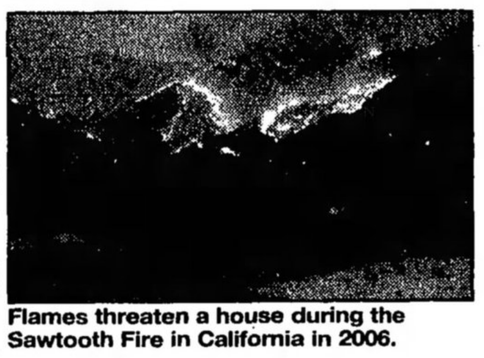
In these times, firefighters put out wildfires no matter where they begin.

Upsetting the balance

About 120 years ago, people started putting out forest fires. As a result, underbrush grew between the trees, creating more fuel for future fires.

People began building homes and other structures closer and closer to forested areas. They planted crops in areas that might normally have acted as natural **firebreaks**, or places where the fire runs out of fuel.

Drought, or dry, conditions, higher temperatures and high winds have also increased the risk of wildfires. Experts say the fire season is getting longer each year in California. About 25 years ago, the fire season began in mid-May. Now it begins in early April. The season is continuing longer into the fall as well.

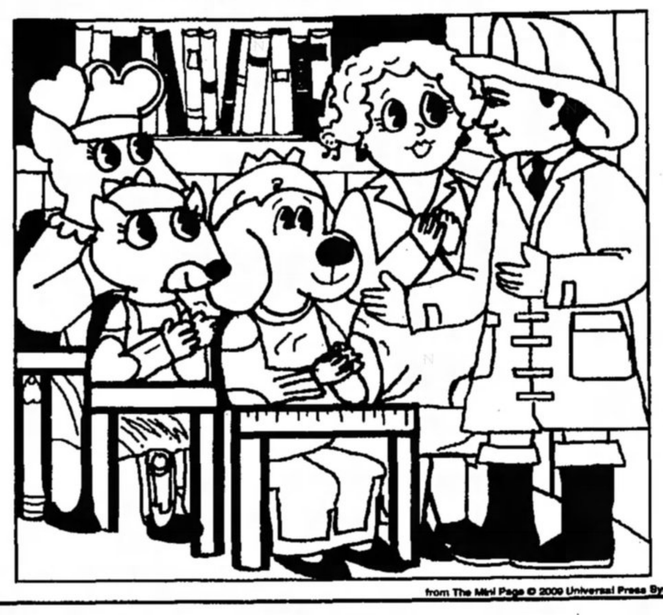


Flames threaten a house during the Sawtooth Fire in California in 2006.

Mini Spy . . .

Mini Spy and her friends have heard a talk from a firefighter at school today. See if you can find:

- caterpillar
- number 3
- ruler
- safety pin
- man in the moon
- word MINI
- two hearts
- sock
- pencil
- letter E



from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Cool as a Cucumber Salad

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon dill weed
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 medium-size cucumbers, peeled and chopped

What to do:

1. Mix vinegar, dill, sugar, salt and lemon juice together in a bowl until sugar and salt are dissolved.
2. Peel cucumber, then slice lengthwise down the middle and scoop out seeds with a spoon.
3. Chop cucumber and place in a shallow bowl.
4. Stir in vinegar mixture until cucumber is coated.
5. Chill for several hours to combine flavors.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

Meet Jade-Lianna

photo courtesy Nickelodeon

Jade-Lianna Gao Jian Peters is the voice of Kai-lan in the Nickelodeon TV series "Ni Hao, Kai-lan." This series teaches Mandarin Chinese words and features Chinese culture.

Jade-Lianna, 13, was born in China. She was adopted when she was 8 months old. She now lives in Milwaukee, Wis., and goes to school at the Milwaukee School of Languages. She speaks French and English and is learning to speak Mandarin.

She began acting and modeling when she was 2 years old. She has appeared in several commercials and plays.

Jade-Lianna plays the guitar, piano and violin. She has been on a competitive swim team for four years. She is also Red Cross-certified in Life Guard Readiness.

She has an older sister. She enjoys having three puppies.

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Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Y. E. Yang

Height: 5-9 **Birthdate: 1-15-72**
Weight: 195 **Birthplace: Jedu-do, South Korea**

If Y.E. Yang had folded in the final round of the PGA golf tournament, nobody would have been surprised. He was playing with Tiger Woods, who had a two-stroke lead and is known as golf's greatest closer. The gallery was huge, the roars loud and the pressure was on.

But this time it was Yang who finished with a bang. Y.E. — also known as Yang Yong-eun — kept his aim and his game together to beat the Tiger by three shots. It marked the first time an Asian-born male player had ever won a major PGA tournament.

Growing up as the son of a vegetable farmer and with seven siblings, Yang didn't start playing golf until age 19. Then at 21 he served a mandatory two years in the South Korean military.

Yang joined the professional golf tour in 2004. Overall he has won 10 tournaments this year, including the PGA event in dramatic fashion.

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Fighting Wildfires

Dangers of fighting wildfires

In the wild, firefighters must be aware of constantly changing conditions that could increase or decrease the dangers. These include:

- changes in wind direction;
- changes in types of fuel. For example, changing from brush to trees, or to homes or grasslands;
- the **slope**, or slant, of the land.

When firefighters fight a structure fire, they can usually move about 100 feet away and be out of danger. This is not usually an option when fighting wildfires.

Wildfires can jump firebreaks. Winds can blow flames into new areas. New fuel can feed the flames.

photo by Wes Schultz, courtesy California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

One firefighter drives a fire engine while others walk alongside, carrying the hose. Firefighters carry about 200 feet of hose on their backs. Firefighters may connect about 2,000 feet of hose altogether. One firefighter walks in front, spraying water with the nozzle.

Fighting fire directly

To fight fires, firefighters take away heat, fuel or oxygen. Fires need these three things to burn.

When firefighters go to a small wildfire, they attack it directly by pouring water right on the flames.

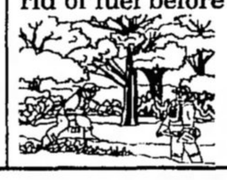
Firefighters are aided by airplanes dropping flame retardant and by helicopters dropping water.

Helicopters may land ahead of the fire to let out firefighters in hard-to-reach areas. If a helicopter can't safely land, firefighters may **rappel** (ruh-PEHL), or slide down, from the helicopter on ropes swaying in the air.

Fighting fire indirectly

In bigger fires, firefighters might attack the fire indirectly. They use bulldozers, shovels, rakes or chainsaws to clear brush from the area in front of the fire, creating a firebreak.

Sometimes, firefighters actually light a second fire between the wildfire and themselves. This gets rid of fuel before the wildfire can reach the area. The expression "fighting fire with fire" comes from this practice.



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A Dangerous Duty

Dangers

Direct attacks on smaller fires are the safest for firefighters. They can usually jump away when fires leap toward them.

Firefighters are taught to "keep one foot in the black and one in the green." The black area is the safest because it has already burned. If things go wrong, firefighters can jump into the black area where there is no fuel left.

Fighting fires indirectly is the most dangerous method. If firefighters have lighted a second fire to remove the fuel source, they could be caught between the two fires.

Even if the flames don't reach the firefighters, the smoke can. The smoke is full of a deadly gas, carbon monoxide. When people inhale this gas, it can cloud their thinking, so they might not even know they are in danger.

Wildland firefighters don't wear filters or respirators. Experts say these can filter out smoke and dust, but not carbon monoxide. Firefighters who wear filters might think they're OK, and overdo it.

Firefighters wear only bandanas to protect themselves against smoke and dust.

photo by Wes Schultz, courtesy California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Every wildland firefighter must carry a fire protection shelter within easy reach (at bottom right of equipment here). At the top of the equipment is a tank with drinking water.

Watching the weather

Every year in California, hot, dry winds called the Santa Ana winds blow from the desert. They can blow at more than 100 miles per hour. They create a danger with fires, since they can blow the flames in all directions.

These winds are particularly dangerous when they come in October. At this time, wildlands are especially dry, since California gets little moisture in the summer.

The Mini Page thanks Kevin Olson, chief of training, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, for help with this issue.

Life-saving shelter

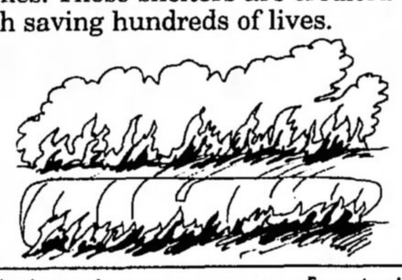
Firefighters each carry small fire shelters on their hips. They can get these shelters out within 30 seconds.

If firefighters can't escape a fire, they throw these aluminum and fiberglass shelters out and crawl inside. They lie low to the ground with the shelter around them, waiting for the fire to pass over.

Firefighters call one of these shelters a "shake 'n' bake." These are tools of last resort. No one wants to have only a thin piece of material protecting him or her as the fire passes over.

Winds from the fire shake the shelters and firefighters as fire rushes across them. Firefighters know this is their last hope. If the fire is this close, there is no escape route. Firefighters say using one of these shelters is terrifying.

Shelters today can protect the firefighter for three minutes in direct flames. These shelters are credited with saving hundreds of lives.



Look through your newspaper for stories about firefighters.

Next week, The Mini Page is about what's up in space.

The Mini Page Staff
Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist

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Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Faye: When is a house not on water or land?
Farris: When it's on fire!

Farley: What is best when it's out?
Faith: A fire!

Fabian: What do you call a flaming flower shop?
Farrell: A florist fire!

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Basset Brown The News Hound's Firefighters TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of firefighters are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: CALIFORNIA, TREES, BRUSH, FIREBREAK, FIRE, WIND, SAFE, FAR, PUT, OUT, HOME, FUEL, DANGEROUS, SMOKE, FLAMES, GAS, HOT, DRY, WILDLANDS, ECOSYSTEMS, SEED, BURN, HOSE, WATER.

W	S	E	K	O	M	S	B	S	E	M	A	L	F	F
F	I	C	S	D	H	O	H	R	S	E	E	R	T	I
W	U	N	E	E	R	O	U	O	U	T	U	P	F	R
A	H	E	D	D	E	Y	M	J	S	S	H	L	A	E
T	O	L	L	L	S	D	V	E	K	E	H	M	R	B
E	T	S	A	G	S	D	N	A	L	D	L	I	W	R
R	N	R	U	B	S	U	O	R	E	G	N	A	D	E
S	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	E	R	I	F	A
A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	S	A	F	E	K

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More to Explore

The Mini Page provides ideas for Web sites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_justforkids.php
- www.smokeybear.com
- www.usfa.dhs.gov/kids/flash.shtm

At the library:

- "Wildfires" by Seymour Simon

image courtesy U.S. Forest Service

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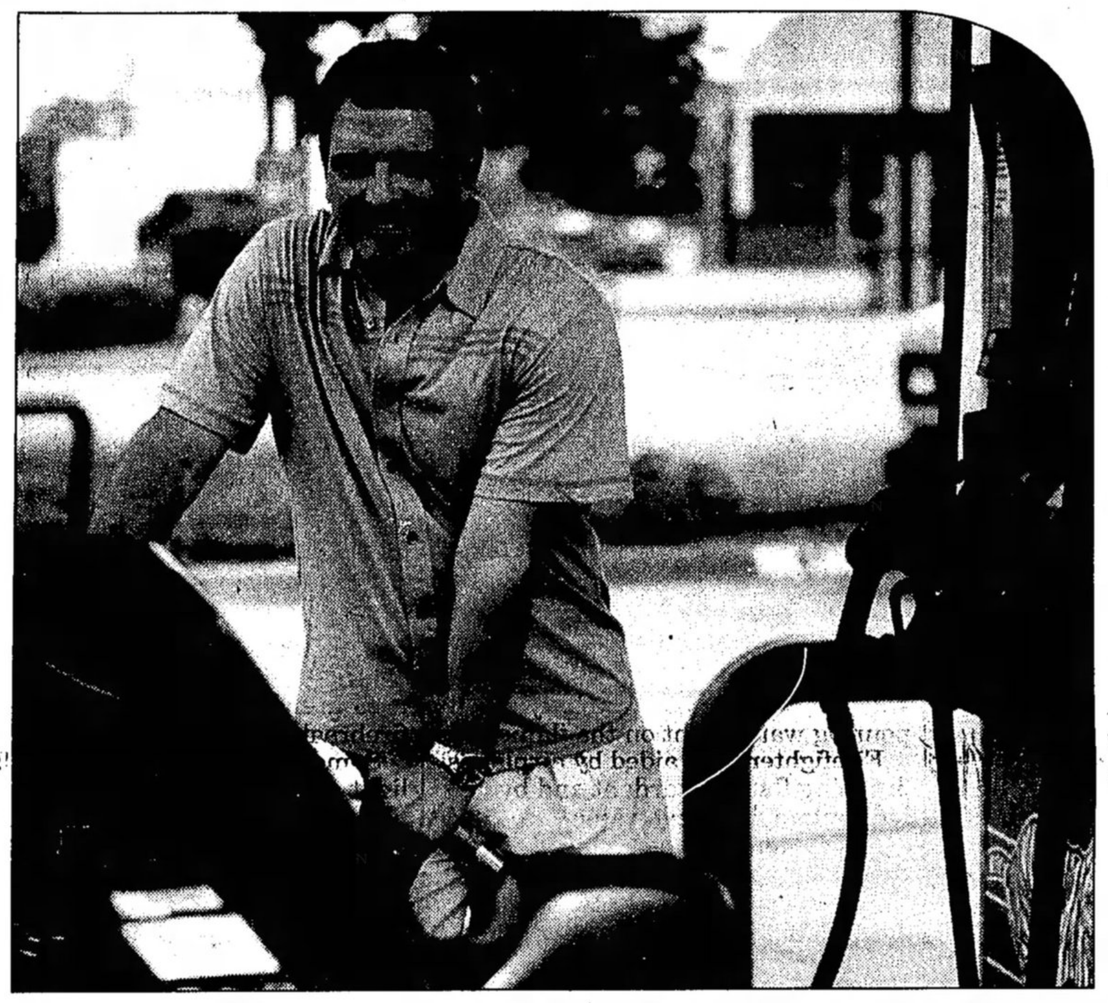

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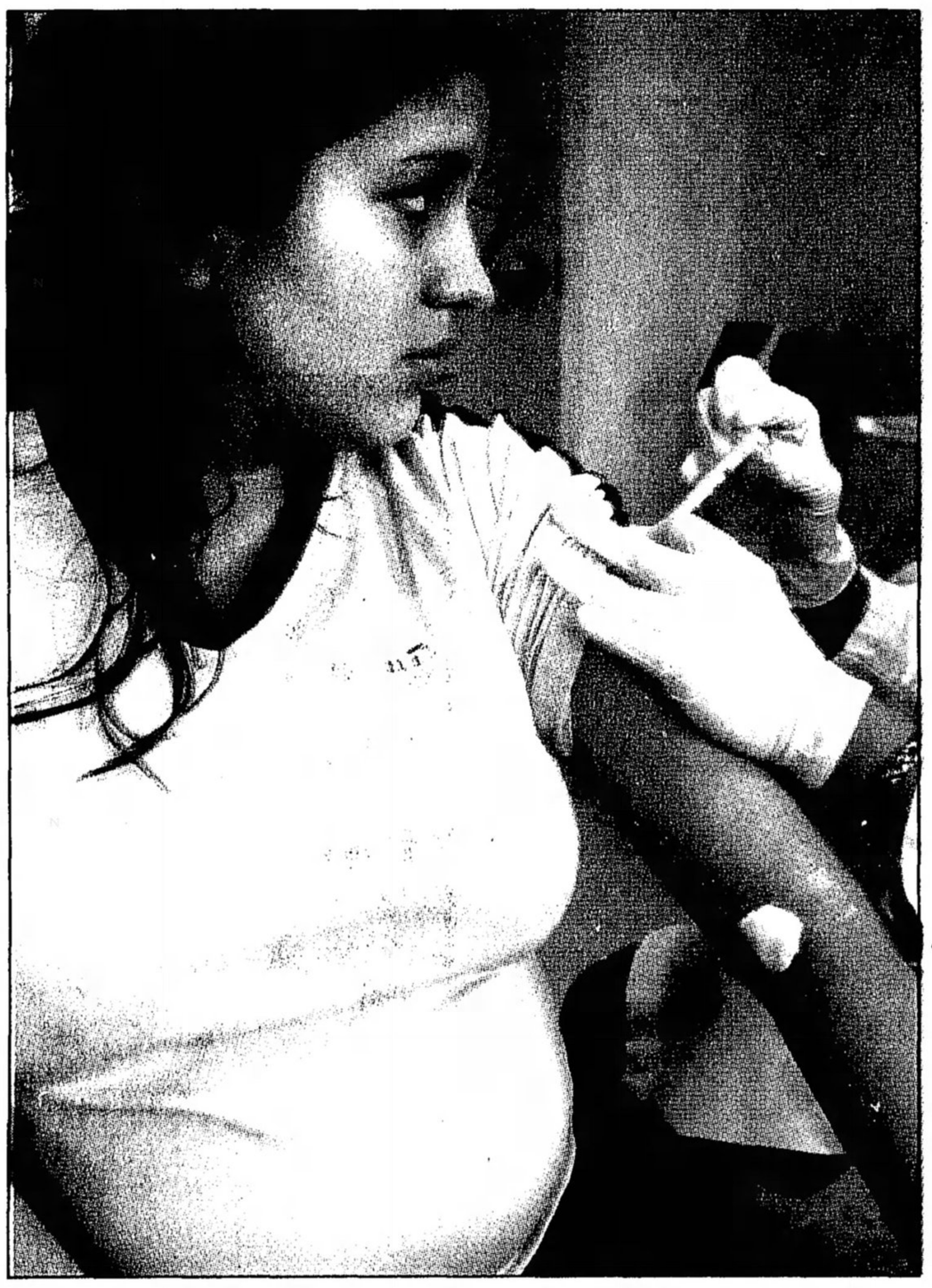
Pregnant women need flu shots

However, many obstetricians refuse to provide vaccinations.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer



Brenda Gonzales, who is 7 months pregnant, receives a flu shot at the Maple Clinic in Dallas.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's hard for pregnant women to escape the message: You're at extra risk from swine flu — it could trigger premature labor, hospitalize you for weeks, even kill you — so be among the first in line for vaccine next month. But only about one in seven pregnant women gets a flu shot each winter.

While federal health officials are working hard to raise that number this year, repeated swine flu warnings won't automatically overcome a key obstacle: Many obstetricians don't vaccinate. And not only are many women reluctant to go hunting for flu shots elsewhere, historically some pharmacists and other providers have been wary of vaccinating them.

"Maybe this year we can change that culture," says Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's not supposed to happen that you, when you are pregnant, are fighting for your life on a respirator."

Yet getting simple vaccine information took Charla Bason of Washington, D.C., repeated requests, as she was bounced between her obstetrician's office and her primary care doctor a few weeks ago.

"I feel like if I hadn't brought it up, they never would have mentioned it to me," says Bason, 30, who is seven months pregnant with her first child.

Bason decided to seek vaccination after watching a CDC Webcast about pregnant women and talking with a physician in the family. But she still has no clear answer about where to get one.

"It's been incredibly frustrating. There's a terrible disconnect between the message that was getting out and, once you decide you want it, how do you get it?" she says.

Any kind of flu is risky during pregnancy, and pregnant women have been on the get-a-flu-shot priority list for years. Their reluctance to take any medication during pregnancy is part of the reason for the low vaccination rates.

With swine flu, what doctors call the 2009 H1N1 strain, pregnant women seem at particular risk for complications. Pregnant women make up 6 percent of H1N1-confirmed deaths even though they account for only 1 percent of the population, according to the CDC. They're at least four times as likely to be hospitalized as other flu sufferers.

Vaccine is a two-for-one deal during pregnancy: It can protect not just mom but the baby, too, for the first few months after birth. The mother's body makes flu-fighting antibodies that easily cross the placenta to be carried by the fetus, explains Dr. Neil Silverman of the University of California, Los Angeles. That's important because flu can easily kill newborns, yet babies can't be vaccinated until they're 6 months old.

Once women get that vaccine advice, where do they get the shot?

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has no count of how many OBs offer flu vaccine. It's still considered a minority although recent surveys suggest many more may be starting this year, especially in large cities.

An extra complication: Each state's health department ultimately will decide who gets to offer the H1N1 vaccine, aiming for locations that vaccinate the most people. Those decisions haven't been made public yet. Even if your OB requested swine flu shots, he or she may not get any, at least from initial shipments.

So the CDC and ACOG are urging obstetricians to partner with a nearby site — a hospital or drugstore, for example — to guarantee their patients a flu-shot source, a message the government will reiterate today in a swine flu training seminar for obstetricians nationwide.

Yet providers who don't routinely treat pregnant women may not understand flu's risk and the shot's safety record, says Silverman, who helps set ACOG practice guidelines.

Take pharmacists, expected to be key H1N1 vaccinators. Silverman gets occasional phone calls from women who say a pharmacist won't fill the flu-shot prescription he wrote.

"They act like the doctor who prescribed it didn't know what he or she was doing," says Silverman, who settles the standoff by getting the pharmacist on the phone. For every patient who calls, "I know there are at least two who just say, 'Well, OK, I'm not going to do this,' and just walk away."

The American Pharmacists Association is urging its members to follow the CDC's pregnancy guidelines but can't mandate that, and a few stores may still balk, says association chief of staff Mitchel Rothholz.

But some are embracing the potential customers. The large Walgreen's drugstore chain told states that if picked as an H1N1 shot site, it might put get-vaccinated-here signs next to the pregnancy tests, or print vaccine reminders for people who bought prenatal vitamins.

And Louisiana this month lifted its requirement that pharmacists vaccinate by prescription only, making it easier for everyone to get a drugstore flu shot.

Why don't more OBs vaccinate? Largely it's the expense and hassle, but it's not part of routine obstetrician training, says Dr. Stanley Gall of the University of Louisville, an OB and longtime vaccine provider. That's changing as more stock a different vaccine — against the virus that causes cervical cancer — and decide they might as well offer flu vaccine, too.

Because so few pregnant women even have another doctor, "the OB office should be a one-stop shop," he says.

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Bad drug reactions common

Children under 5 are at the greatest risk.

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — More than half a million U.S. children yearly have bad reactions or side effects from widely used medicines that require medical treatment and sometimes hospitalization, new research shows.

Children younger than age 5 are most commonly affected. Penicillin and other prescription antibiotics are among drugs causing the most problems, including rashes, stomachaches and diarrhea.

Parents should pay close attention when their children are started on medicines since "first-time medication exposures may reveal an allergic reaction," said lead author Dr. Florence Bourgeois, a pediatrician with Children's Hospital in Boston.

Doctors also should tell parents about possible symptoms for a new medication, she said.

The study appears in October's Pediatrics, released Monday.

It's based on national statistics on patients' visits to clinics and emergency rooms between 1995 and 2005. The number of children treated for bad drug reactions each year was mostly stable during that time, averaging 585,922.

Bourgeois said there were no deaths resulting from bad reactions to drugs in the data she studied, but 5 percent of children were sick enough to require hospitalization.

The study involved reactions to prescribed drugs, including accidental overdoses. They were used for a range of ailments including ear infections, strep throat, depression and cancer. Among teens, commonly used medicines linked with troublesome side effects included birth control pills. Bad reactions to these pills included menstrual problems, nausea and vomiting.

Children younger than 5 accounted for 43 percent of visits to clinics and emergency rooms; followed by teens aged 15 to 18, who made up about 23 percent of the visits.

Similar numbers of hospitalized children — about 540,000 yearly — also have bad reactions to drugs, including side effects, medicine mix-ups and accidental overdoses, recent government research suggests.

The new report indicates children at home are just as vulnerable.

Michael Cohen, president of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, said a common problem involves giving young children liquid medicine. Doses can come in drops, teaspoons or milliliters, and parents may think those amounts are interchangeable.

Hospital announces weekly schedule

Monongahela Valley Hospital will offer the following programs next week:

■ Oct. 5 — Baby Care class, 6:30 p.m., Mon-Vale HealthPLEX, Rostraver Township. Learn baby care basics with up-to-date information at this instructional session for parents-to-be. Topics include: home safety, basic car seat safety, immunizations, breast and bottle feeding, pacifiers, bathing an infant and additional topics. For more information, call (724) 258-BABY (2229).

■ Oct. 6, 7, 8 — Managing Your Diabetes, 8:30 a.m., Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference. This three-day, two-hour-per-day education series that focuses on diabetes self-management and care. Registration is required prior to the start of classes. For more information or to register, call (724) 258-1483.

■ Oct. 7 — Innovations In H1N1 Flu Treatment, 6 p.m., education conference center. Infectious Disease Specialist Jeffrey James, M.D., and a team of health care professionals will present a free program designed to recognize the risk factors for Novel H1N1 (swine flu) virus and discuss immunization and treatment. This program is part of MVH's Innovations series featuring physician guest speakers providing medical information to the community and qualifies for Act 48 education credits. Refreshments will be served. Call (724) 258-1234 for registration or more information.

■ Oct. 7 — Breast Cancer Support Group, 6 p.m., education conference center. This support group is free and open to all breast cancer patients and their families. For more information, call (724) 258-1455.

Cowboys top Carolina

Tashard Choice scored a touchdown Monday as the Cowboys won for the first time in their new stadium. **3B**

Valley SPORTS

Big day for LaRoche

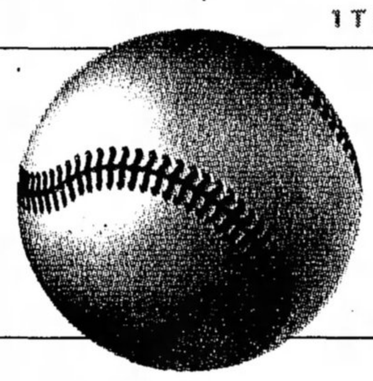
Andy LaRoche homered twice Monday as the Pirates rapped the Dodgers, 11-1. **3B**

BVA blanks Yough

The Lady Leps continued their rampage through Class AAA Section 6 with a 7-0 win at Yough. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Who are the nine starting quarterbacks the Pittsburgh Steelers have had since Brett Favre made his first career NFL start in 1992? **3B**



Last night's scores

Pittsburgh 11, L.A. Dodgers 1
Houston 8, Philadelphia 2
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 4, Florida 0

Brian **HERMAN**

Louisville brings out Williams' best

Cleaning out the notebook:

■ Monessen's Mick Williams should be looking ahead to Friday night's Pitt Big East opener at Louisville,

Two of Williams' best games for the Panthers have been against the Cardinals.

As a sophomore, Williams had six tackles, including a quarterback sack, in the Panthers' 24-17 loss at Louisville.

In last year's 41-7 romp over the Cards, Williams had a career high one and a half quarterback sacks.

This season Williams — a 6-1, 280-pound lineman — is Pitt's second leading tackler with 23, including 16 solos. He leads the Panthers in both quarterback sacks (three) and tackles for losses (10). Last year, Williams had 25 tackles, including 18 solos and eight and a half for losses.

Pitt's leading tackler is junior strong safety Dom DeCicco from Thomas Jefferson with 25 including 16 solos.

■ Belle Vernon Area's first-year football coach Aaron Krepps is calling for a white-out Friday when his Leps play their Big 7 Conference game at James Weir Stadium against West Mifflin.

All BVA fans are asked to wear white to the contest with white "Leopard Pride" t-shirts being sold this week for $5 during lunch periods at the high school.

The Booster Association will also sell the t-shirts prior to Wednesday's 7 p.m. meeting at the school.

■ Jim Wehner is still looking for his first Quad A win after leaving Class AAA Yough for Baldwin.

The Highlanders take an 0-4 record into Great South Conference opener at home against unbeaten Peters Township, which is coached by Charleroi's Nick Milchovich.

Baldwin's losses have been to Shaler (29-14), Gateway (43-7), Seneca Valley (22-7) and North Hills (28-7).

Peters Township, meanwhile, is off to one of its best starts in years with victories over Ringgold (29-15), Kiski Area (34-14), Knoch (20-17) and Indiana (33-25).

The Indians aren't getting much notice because their opponents are 4-12. And three of them are Class AAA teams with two — Knoch and Indiana — both winless.

Speaking of area coaches, neither Lou Rood nor Joe Kuhns — formerly of Belle Vernon Area and California, respectively — are enjoying much success at their new schools.

After opening with a wild 41-33 victory over Mapletown, Rood's Bentworth team has lost three in a row and been outscored 99-6 in Black Hills Conference defeats to two of the state's top Class A teams, Fort Cherry and Clairton.

Kuhns' Class AA Waynesburg team is also 1-3 with the Raiders' win over winless South Allegheny.

■ And thanks to Dan Nangle of Rostraver Township, who says the place to "pass the buck" is in the offering!

Party's over for Steelers

1-2 start sparks speculation that the team isn't focused on the new season.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers are beginning to hear the three words they were certain wouldn't be associated with them: Super Bowl hangover.

The Steelers experienced in 2006 what can happen when the partying suddenly stops after a Super Bowl victory and a new season arrives very quickly. That season, numerous distractions and their quarterback's health problems led to a 2-6 start and they wound up missing the playoffs.

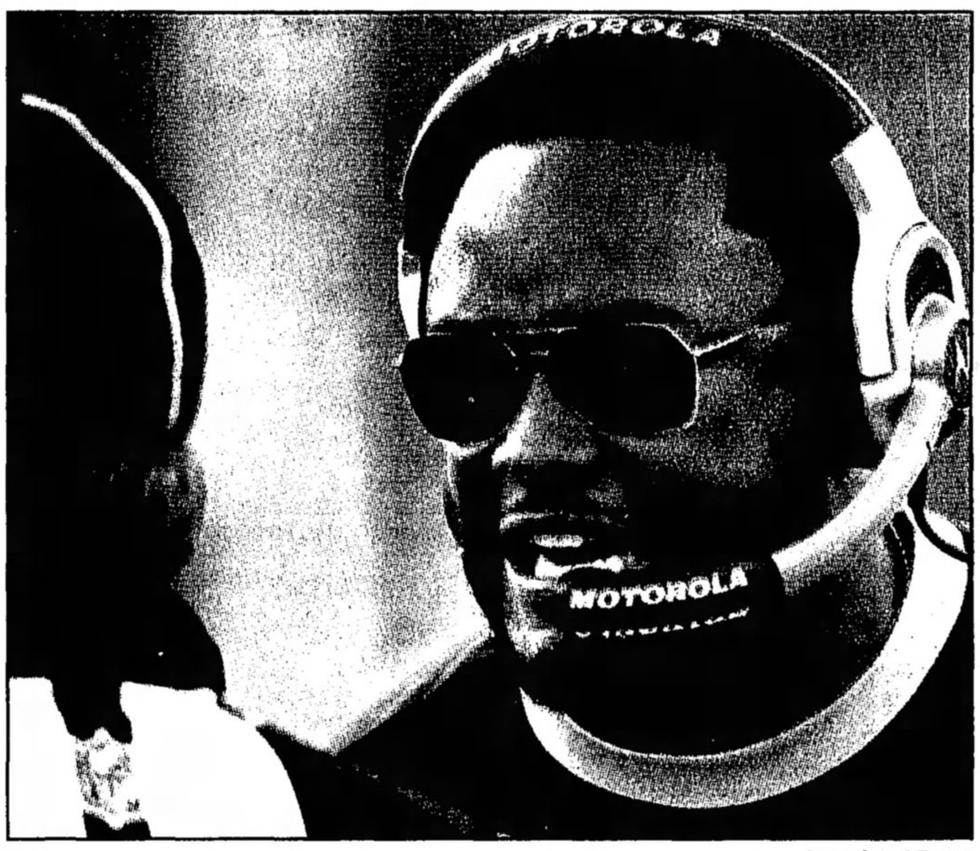
Wouldn't happen this time, these Steelers said. This team is too focused, too disciplined and determined to let it happen again, they said. Yet the Steelers are 1-2, with half as many losses as they had in 19 games last season, and they're already facing a two-game deficit in the AFC North.

More worrisome to them is the way they're losing, with their No. 1-ranked defense from the last two seasons unable to create turnovers or get off the field at critical points in games. For the second time in eight days on Sunday, they let a team drive nearly the length of the field and beat them in the closing seconds.

Those were the kind of comebacks the Steelers pulled off themselves last season, when they rallied to win late in a game six times — including the Super Bowl. Now, they've lost 23-20 to the Bengals in a game they led 13-0 and 20-9, and they lost 17-14 a week earlier to the Bears, who never led until Robbie Gould kicked a 44-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining.

A super-sized success hangover? Maybe not. But the Steelers still haven't run the ball like they normally do late in a game, and they've made the kind of game-altering mistakes they almost never made last season while

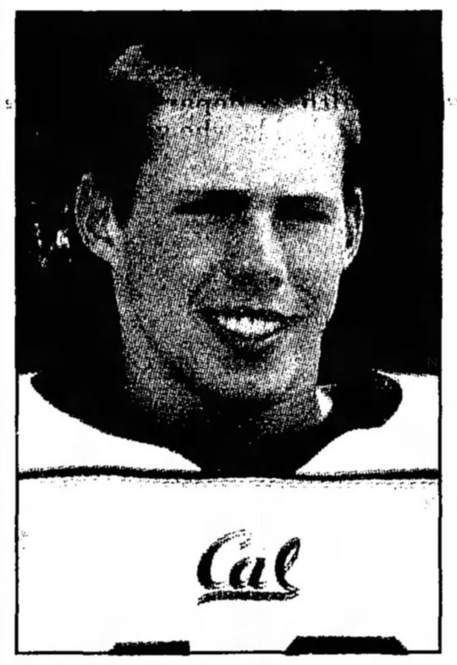
(See STEELERS, Page 3B)



Associated Press

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin talks with an official during Sunday's 23-20 loss in Cincinnati.

Cal's Martinak Player of the Week



D.J. Martinak

Quarterback topped 100 yards rushing and passing in win over Geibel.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

There aren't many high school quarterbacks who run and pass for more than 100 yards in back-to-back games.

Don't tell California's D.J. Martinak.

A 5-11, 165-pound senior, Martinak has accomplished the feat in the Trojans' last two outings.

In California's 43-0 romp over West Greene a week ago, Martinak completed three of four passes for 100 yards and ran for 151 yards.

Against Geibel Saturday afternoon, Martinak completed eight of nine passes for 113 yards and rushed for 178 yards and four touchdowns in a deceiving 49-21 win.

With the showing against Geibel, Martinak is *The Valley Independent's* Player of the Week.

California was trailing 21-20 late in the second quarter when Martinak stole the show in the rain.

Martinak closed the first half with a 15-yard scoring run to put the Trojans ahead to stay, 26-21, before breaking off 51- and 50-yard touchdown runs in the third quarter and passing for a pair of two-pointers.

Honorable mention:

■ Charleroi's Quinten Briggs, who ran for 210 yards and three touchdowns in the Cougars' 29-3 win over South Allegheny.

■ Belle Vernon Area's Matt Green, who rushed for 196 yards ad scored two touchdowns in the Leps' 20-19 loss to Greensburg Salem.

■ Monessen's Terrance Stepoli, who completed seven of 11 passes for 114 yards and two touchdowns, and ran 50 yards yard a score.

■ Frazier's Chase Kirmeyer, who ran for 214 yards and scored four touchdowns in the Commodores' 28-2 win over Avella.

■ Yough's Sean Spoonhoward, who ran for 92 yards and scored the game-tying touchdown in the Cougars' 17-14 victory over Derry.

■ Yough's Dan Moore, who kicked the game-winning field goal with five seconds remaining.

■ Elizabeth Forward's Greg Sotereanos, who ran for 107 yards in the Warriors' 21-7 loss to Trinity.

Repeat performance?

The Penguins open a new season with their eyes on the Stanley Cup.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — There were few reasons to think the Pittsburgh Penguins could recover from a stretch of 16 losses in 25 games and make the playoffs, much less win the Stanley Cup. They did.

There were few reasons to believe the Penguins could rally from 2-0 playoff deficits against the Capitals and Red Wings. They did.

There also was scant evidence to suggest they could become the first team since the 1983-84 Oilers to lose in the Stanley Cup finals one season and win them the next, especially after star forward Marian Hossa bolted for Detroit. Or that they would be the first club since 1971 to win a finals Game 7 on the road, especially after losing 5-0 in Game 5 in Detroit.

They did all that.

So, after shoving aside so many misconceptions and toppling so many you-can't-do-this hurdles to win their first Stanley Cup in 17 years, the Penguins have every reason to think that one of the youngest championship teams in NHL history might repeat, right?

Yes. And no.

With Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Marc-Andre Fleury and Jordan Staal all in their early to mid-20s (Fleury turns 25 in November), the Penguins might be like those '83-'84 Oilers — a youthful team that wins the Stanley Cup and then gets better. Edmonton won the Stanley Cup four more times in the next six years and is the last team to play in the finals during three consecutive seasons (1983-85), as both the Penguins and Red Wings will try to do.

"We're probably even more confident than we were before," defenseman Sergei Gonchar said as the Penguins get ready for Friday's opener against the Rangers. "Obviously, we want to prove again that we can do it."

After taking a remarkably rugged path to the Stanley Cup last season, the Penguins may find it more difficult to pull off a repeat, especially given it would take another 100-plus games on top of the 208 they've played in the last two seasons. That's a heavy workload even for a young team.

Certainly, the Penguins were much different after coach Dan Bylsma took over a team that lost 30 of its first 57 games and took them to an 18-3-4 finish. But some of the same worries that existed before he arrived remain and, this season, the Penguins won't have former coach Michel Therrien to blame if things go wrong.

The Penguins still have more offensive defensemen (Sergei Gonchar, Kris Letang, Alex Goligoski) than they do shutdown defenders — especially now that the former No. 1 pair, Rob Scuderi (Kings) and Hal Gill (Canadiens), are elsewhere.

They're still searching for effective linemates for Crosby, just as they have since Hossa left. Bill Guerin and Chris Kunitz were effective late last season, but Kunitz was invisible during the playoffs (1 goal in 24 games) and Guerin will be 39 in November.

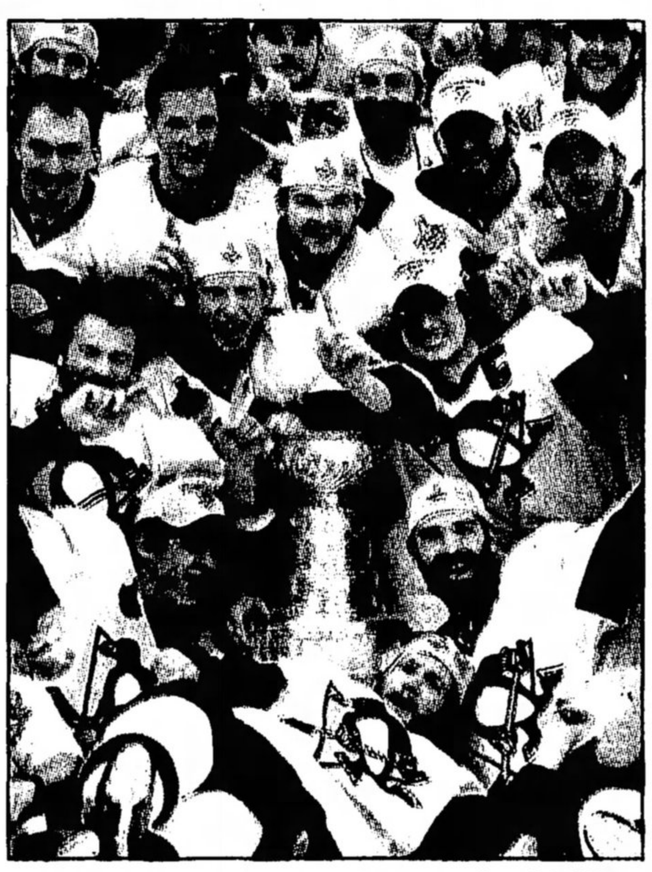
The power play should be exceptional with Crosby and Malkin; instead it was a mediocre No. 20, although having Gonchar on the point all season should be a big help. Gonchar missed two-thirds of the 2008-09 season with a shoulder injury, and he wasn't as effective as usual once he returned (6 goals in 25 games).

The Olympics will be a major late-season distraction to Crosby, Malkin, Gonchar and maybe some others, too.

Of course, there probably are 29 NHL teams that would love to have these problems, as long as they had Crosby and Malkin.

"We've set the bar pretty high," Crosby said. "You have to be ready every night because you're going to see everyone's best."

Crosby is only 22, and Malkin only 23, yet each has won a Stanley Cup and has been an MVP (Crosby in the regular season, Malkin in the playoffs) and won a scoring title. Each offers numerous reasons to believe the Penguins could be a force for the next 10 years — especially after they move into a new arena next season that will generate far more cash than 48-year-old Mellon Arena.



Associated Press

The Penguins celebrate after winning the Stanley Cup in June.

Guerin offers this: Crosby and Malkin are so competitive, and push each other so hard, he is certain that a lack of motivation will be the least of the Penguins' worries.

"I think our team's still going to be hungry," Guerin said. "I think we proved a lot to ourselves last year."

The Penguins managed to keep most of their major pieces, but one overlooked loss might be

(See PENGUINS, Page 3B)

SPORTS

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	90	66	.577	—
Atlanta	86	70	.551	4
Florida	83	74	.529	7 1/2
New York	67	90	.427	23 1/2
Washington	53	103	.340	37

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-St. Louis	90	66	.577	—
Chicago	81	74	.523	8 1/2
Milwaukee	77	79	.494	13
Cincinnati	74	82	.474	16
Houston	73	83	.468	17
Pittsburgh	59	96	.381	30 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	93	64	.592	—
Colorado	88	68	.564	4 1/2
San Francisco	83	73	.532	9 1/2
San Diego	72	85	.459	21
Arizona	68	88	.436	24 1/2

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 11, L.A. Dodgers 1
Houston 8, Philadelphia 2
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Atlanta 4, Florida 0

Today's Games

Houston (W.Lopez 0-0) at Philadelphia (Happ 11-4), 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Pelfrey 10-12) at Washington (J.Martin 5-4), 7:05 p.m.

Florida (Jo.Johnson 15-5) at Atlanta (T.Hudson 2-1), 7:10 p.m.

St. Louis (Pineiro 15-11) at Cincinnati (H.Bailey 6-5), 7:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (K.Hart 4-8) at Chicago Cubs (Dempster 10-8), 8:05 p.m.

Milwaukee (Narveson 2-0) at Colorado (Marquis 15-12), 8:40 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 12-10) at San Diego (Ramos 0-1), 10:05 p.m.

Arizona (D.Davis 8-13) at San Francisco (J.Sanchez 7-12), 10:15 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	101	56	.643	—
Boston	91	65	.583	9 1/2
Tampa Bay	80	76	.513	20 1/2
Toronto	73	84	.465	28
Baltimore	60	96	.385	40 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	83	72	.535	—
Minnesota	81	74	.523	2
Chicago	76	81	.484	8
Cleveland	64	92	.410	19 1/2
Kansas City	64	93	.408	20

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Los Angeles	92	64	.590	—
Texas	85	71	.545	7
Seattle	80	76	.513	12
Oakland	75	81	.481	17

y-clinched division

Monday's Games

Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 1
N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 2
Minnesota at Detroit, ppd., rain
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 6
Toronto 11, Boston 5, 7 innings
L.A. Angels 11, Texas 0

Today's Games

Minnesota (Blackburn 11-11) at Detroit (Porcello 14-9), 12 p.m., 1st game

Chicago White Sox (C.Torres 1-1) at Cleveland (Masterson 4-9), 7:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Lerew 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (A.Burnett 12-9), 7:05 p.m.

Minnesota (Duensing 5-1) at Detroit (Verlander 17-9), 7:05 p.m., 2nd game

Baltimore (Guthrie 10-16) at Tampa Bay (W.Davis 1-1), 7:08 p.m.

Toronto (R.Romero 12-9) at Boston (Buchholz 7-3), 7:10 p.m.

Texas (Feldman 17-6) at L.A. Angels (Kazmir 9-9), 10:05 p.m.

Oakland (Cahill 10-12) at Seattle (F.Hernandez 17-5), 10:10 p.m.

Pirates boxscore

LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi	PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi
Pierre lf-cf	4	0	0	0	AMcCt cf	4	3	3	0
OHudsn 2b	4	1	1	0	AnLRc 3b	5	4	5	6
Ethier rf	2	0	0	0	GJones 1b	5	1	2	2
Hu ss	0	0	0	1	Doumit c	4	0	1	1
Kemp cf	3	0	0	0	Milledg lf	4	1	1	0
JMcDnl p	0	0	0	0	Moss rf	5	0	0	0
DeWitt ph	1	0	0	0	DlwYn 2b	4	1	1	1
Loney 1b	3	0	1	0	L.Cruz ss	4	1	2	0
Loretta 3b	3	0	1	0	Duke p	4	0	0	1
Ausms c	2	0	0	0	Veal p	0	0	0	0
A.Ellis c	1	0	0	0					
JCastro ss-lf	3	0	1	0					
Kuroda p	0	0	0	0					
Mntkw ph	1	0	0	0					
Haeger p	0	0	0	0					
Mota p	0	0	0	0					
Repko rf	1	0	0	0					
Totals	28	1	4	1	Totals	39	11	15	11

Los Angeles	000	000	001	—	1
Pittsburgh	050	202	02x	—	11

E—Loretta (1), G.Jones (1), L.Cruz (1). DP—Los Angeles 1, Pittsburgh 1. LOB—Los Angeles 3, Pittsburgh 8. 2B—An.LaRoche 2 (26), Delw.Young (16). 3B—O.Hudson (5). HR—An.LaRoche 2 (12), G.Jones (21). SB—G.Jones (10). CS—Loretta (1). S—Kuroda. SF—Hu.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Los Angeles						
Kuroda L,8-7	4	8	7	3	2	3
Haeger	2-3	1	0	0	0	1
Mota	1 1-3	3	2	2	0	0
Ja.McDonald	2	3	2	2	1	2
Pittsburgh						
Duke W,11-15	8 2-3	4	1	1	1	6
Veal	1-3	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Haeger (Milledge).
Umpires—Home, Adrian Johnson; First, Gary Cederstrom; Second, Fieldin Culbreth; Third, Brian O'Nora.
T—2:38. A—16,696 (38,362).

Bowling

Charleroi Lanes
New Eagle League
Standings

Hoot Owls, 28-9; Chaleroi Lanes, 23-12; Cindy's Catering and Hil lTop Bar, 23-14; Yocolano Distributing, 18-18; A.T. Koury Roofing, 14-22; Bill Hermann's Landscaping, 11-25; Hey Andy, 10-26.

High game, series

Bo Garrett, 202-521; Dave Seward, 194-545; Kevin Dunham, 192-449; Jim Ross, 181-503; Charlie Sleith, 176-449; Kenny Loutitt, 170-446; Paul Henderson, 168-459; Art Waugaman, 168-444; Bob Burket, 167-435; Joe Benny, 161-454.

Sam Fuld and the Chicago Cubs will host the Pirates at 8:05 p.m. on Fox Sports.

Sports dial

Today
Television

12:30 p.m. - ESPN2 - USA vs Cameroon, soccer.

2:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Olympiacos at Arsenal, soccer.

8:05 p.m. - Fox Sports - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.

9 pm. - ESPN2 - Indiana at Phoenix, women's pro basketball.

Radio

8:05 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, baseball.

High school football

Class AAA
Big Seven Conference

	League W	League L	Overall W	Overall L
Thomas Jefferson	2	0	4	0
Chartiers Valley	2	0	4	0
West Mifflin	1	1	3	1
Trinity	1	1	1	3
Ringgold	0	1	2	2
Belle Vernon Area	0	1	2	2
Elizabeth Forward	0	2	2	2

Friday

Ringgold at Elizabeth Forward
West Mifflin at Belle Vernon Area
Trinity at Chartiers Valley
Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Highlands

Keystone Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Uniontown	2	0	3	1
Laurel Highlands	2	0	2	2
Greensburg Salem	1	0	3	1
Yough	1	1	1	3
Southmoreland	0	1	0	4
Albert Gallatin	0	2	1	3
Derry	0	2	0	4

Friday

Yough at Albert Gallatin
S'moreland at Derry
Uniontown at Grb. Salem
Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Highlands

Class AA
Interstate Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Jeannette	4	0	4	0
Mt. Pleasant	4	0	4	0
Charleroi	3	1	3	1
McGuffey	3	1	3	1
Greensburg Central	2	2	2	2
Washington	2	2	2	2
Waynesburg	1	3	1	3
Brownsville	1	3	1	3
Washington	2	2	2	2
South Allegheny	0	4	0	4
East Allegheny	0	4	0	4

Friday

Charleroi at Jeannette
Washington at Brownsville
East Allegheny at Mt. Pleasant
South Allegheny at McGuffey
Grb. Cenral at Waynesburg

Class A
Tri-County South

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Beth-Center	2	0	3	1
Monessen	2	0	2	2
California	2	0	3	1
Jefferson-Morgan	1	1	3	1
Carmichaels	1	1	1	3
Geibel	0	2	1	3
West Greene	0	2	0	4
Mapletown	0	2	0	4

Friday

Beth-Center at Monessen
Mapletown at California
Jeff-Morgan at Carmichaels
Geibel at West Greene

Black Hills Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Fort Cherry	2	0	4	0
Clairton	2	0	3	1
Chartiers-Houston	1	1	3	1
Serra	1	1	3	1
Frazier	1	1	2	2
Burgettstown	1	1	2	2
Bentworth	0	2	1	3
Avella	0	2	1	3

Friday

Frazier at Chartiers-Houston
Serra at Avella
Clairton at Fort Cherry

Saturday

Bentworth at Burgettsown, 1:30 p.m.

Area golf

At Mon Valley Country Club
Jeannette - 209

Matt Sherff, 40; Jordan Ault, 41; Cody Milliron and Matt Deponti, 42; Bill Avalia, 44. Non-count: Brandon Howe.

Charleroi - 225

Eric Anderson, 38; Brandon Konek, 40; Martin Maytas, 48; Eric Wysochanski, 49; Kirk Melenyzer, 50. Non-count: Zac Wright, 51.

At Linden Hall
Frazier - 221

Nick Hawranko, 39; Tyler Rick, 41; Robert Gondura, 42; Zach Smallich,49; D.J. Hudik, 50. Non-count: Eddie Miller, 51.

Brownsville - 303

Nick Calvaresi, 44; Jared Gibson, 57; Jacob Murray, 65; Aaron Golembiewski, 66; Anthony Rhodes, 71. Non-count: Derek Lohr, 72.

High school football rankings

Pennsylvania high school football rankings from The Patriot-News of Harrisburg for the week of Sept. 28, with school's district in parentheses, followed by the school's record and last week's ranking.

CLASS AAAA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Bishop McDevitt	(3)	4-0	2
2. North Penn	(1)	4-0	3
3. Gateway	(7)	4-0	4
4. St. Joseph's Prep	(12)	3-1	9
5. McKeesport	(7)	3-1	5
6. La Salle College	(12)	3-1	1
7. Abington	(1)	3-0	NR
8. Downingtown West	(1)	4-0	10
9. Pittsburgh CC	(7)	3-1	NR
10. McDowell	(10)	3-1	NR

Honorable mention

Bethel Park (7) 3-1, Cardinal O'Hara (12) 4-0, Central Dauphin (3) 3-1, Cumberland Valley (3) 3-1, Father Judge (12) 4-0, Henderson (1) 4-0, Neshaminy (1) 3-1, Norristown (1) 4-0, North Allegheny (7) 3-1, Pennsbury (1) 4-0, Ridley (1) 4-0, Shaler (7) 4-0, State College (6) 3-1, Upper St. Clair (7) 3-1, Woodland Hills (7) 3-1.

CLASS AAA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Thomas Jefferson	(7)	4-0	1
2. Selinsgrove	(4)	4-0	2
3. Wilson Area	(11)	4-0	3
4. Cathedral Prep	(10)	3-1	4
5. Manheim Central	(3)	4-0	5
6. Hopewell	(7)	4-0	6
7. Pottsgrove	(1)	4-0	7
8. Abington Heights	(2)	4-0	8
9. Bayard Rustin	(1)	4-0	9
10. Allentown CC	(11)	4-0	NR

Honorable mention

Berwick (2) 3-1, Bradford (10) 4-0, Chartiers Valley (7) 4-0, Cocalico (3) 3-1, Dallas (2) 4-0, Daniel Boone (3) 4-0, Elco (3) 4-0, Greencastle-Antrim (3) 4-0, New Castle (7) 3-1, North Pocono (2) 4-0, Shikellamy (4) 4-0, Susquehanna Twp. (3) 4-0, West York (3) 4-0.

CLASS AA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Wilmington	(10)	4-0	1
2. Beaver Falls	(7)	4-0	2
3. Dunmore	(2)	4-0	3
4. West Catholic	(12)	4-0	4
5. Lancaster Catholic	(3)	3-1	5
6. Martinsburg Central	(6)	4-0	6
7. Montoursville	(4)	4-0	7
8. Jeannette	(7)	4-0	8
9. Aliquippa	(7)	4-0	9
10. General McLane	(10)	4-0	10

Honorable mention

Bok (12) 4-0, Burrell (7) 3-1, Catasauqua (11) 4-0, Center (7) 4-0, Ford City (7) 4-0, Forest Hills (6) 4-0, Fort LeBeouf (10) 4-0, Freeport (7) 3-1, Hughesville (4) 4-0, Karns City (9) 4-0, Keystone Oaks (7) 3-1, Northern Lehigh (11) 3-1, North Schuylkill (11) 4-0, Richland (6) 4-0, Seton-LaSalle (7) 4-0, Shady Side Academy (7) 4-0, South Fayette (7) 4-0, Sto-Rox (7) 3-1, Towanda (4) 4-0.

CLASS A

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Rochester	(7)	4-0	1
2. Farrell	(10)	4-0	2
3. Bishop McCort	(6)	4-0	3
4. Laurel	(7)	4-0	6
5. Clairton	(7)	3-1	7
6. Steelton-Highspire	(3)	2-1	8
7. Portage	(6)	4-0	10
8. Fort Cherry	(7)	4-0	NR
9. Serra Catholic	(7)	3-1	5
10. Bellwood-Antis	(6)	4-0	NR

Honorable mention

Avonworth (7) 4-0, Bloomsburg (4) 3-1, Cameron County (9) 4-0, Conemaugh Twp. (5) 3-1, Line Mountain (4) 4-0, Linesville (10) 4-0, Marion Center (6) 4-0, Mercyhurst Prep (10) 4-0, Moshannon Valley (6) 4-0, North catholic (7) 2-2, Old Forge (2) 4-0, Schuylkill Haven (11) 3-1, Sharpsville (10) 4-0, Southern Columbia (4) 2-2, South Side Beaver (7) 3-1, Springdale (7) 3-1, Upper Dauphin (3) 4-0.

Youth football

Belle Vernon Midget League

Fayette City	**6**	**6**	**6**	**0**	**-**	**18**
Tough Green	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**	**0**

Fayette City - Matt Brown (36, run)
Fayette City - Derek Verkleren (62, run)
Fayette City - Brown (6,run).

LaGrange	**21**	**13**	**0**	**14**	**-**	**48**
Belle Vernon	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**	**0**

LaGrange - Dalton Naylor (50, run) Zac Spate PAT)

LaGrange - Deven Feeney (20, fumble recovery retirn) Spate (PAT)

LaGrange - Spate (48,run) Philip Taylor (PAT)

LaGrange - Paul Schnur (29, pass from Sam Kovell) Naylor (PAT)

LaGrange - Jacob Homanics (1, run)

LaGrange - Milton Kobaly (4, run) John Pokol (PAT)

LaGrange - Treor Schrock (5, run) Ben Bamford (PAT)

Wash. Twp.	**14**	**14**	**0**	**0**	**-**	**28**
Yough Silver	**0**	**7**	**0**	**7**	**-**	**14**

Wash Twp. - Zack Conrad (22, run) Billy Burrows (PAT)

Wash Twp. - Burrows (48, pass from Jacob Gherardini) Conrad (PAST)

Wash Twp. - Conrad (63, pass from Burrows) Jacob Powell (PAT)

Yough Silver - Brandon Van Dyke (4, run) Dustin Randolph (pass from Eric Baer)

Wash Twp. - Burrows (45, run) Burrows (PAT)

Yough Silver - Van Dyke (14, run) Baer (PAT)

Standings
West Division

	W	L	T
LaGrange	5	0	0
Wash Twp.	2	2	1
Yough Silver	0	5	0

East Division

	W	L	T
Yough Green	3	1	1
Fayette City	3	2	0
Belle Vernon	1	4	0

Saturday
At Yukon

11a.m. - Yough Green vs Belle Vernon

1 p.m. - Fayette City vs Washington Twp.

3 p.m.- LaGrange vs Yough Silver

WNBA Finals

Today
Game 1

Indiana at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Boys' soccer standings

Class AAA
Section 5

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Peters Township	5	0	0	6	1	1
Canon-McMillan	3	2	0	7	3	0
Upper St. Clair	4	1	0	7	1	1
Ringgold	2	3	0	7	3	0
Moon	1	4	0	2	5	1
Trinity	0	5	0	2	9	0

Monday

West Mifflin 1, Canon-McMillan 0

Today

Ringgold at Charleroi
Peters Twp. at Seneca Valley

Class AA
Section 3

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
South Park	6	0	0	7	1	0
S'moreland	5	1	0	5	3	0
Belle Vernon Area	4	2	1	7	3	1
Thomas Jefferson	3	2	1	4	4	1
Elizabeth Forward	3	3	0	5	5	0
Steel Valley	1	4	0	2	5	0
Uniontown	1	4	0	1	7	0
Yough	0	7	0	0	7	0

Today

BV Area at Thomas Jefferson
Elizabeth at S'moreland
South Park at Uniontown
Yough at Steel Valley

Class A
Section 1

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Grb. Central	7	0	0	7	1	0
Trinity Christian	5	2	0	6	2	0
Serra	4	2	0	7	2	0
Geibel	4	3	0	6	3	0
California	2	4	1	4	6	1
Winchester Thurs.	2	3	1	2	4	1
South Allegheny	1	4	0	1	6	0
Brownsville	0	7	0	0	10	0

Monday

Serra 3, Riverview 1

Today

Brownsville at California
Geibel at South Allegheny
Grb. Central at Trinity Christian
Serra at Winchester Thurston

Section 4

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Carlynton	6	0	0	8	1	0
Bentworth	5	1	0	5	5	0
Charleroi	4	2	0	7	3	0
C-Houston	3	3	0	3	7	1
Monessen	2	4	0	4	5	0
Brentwood	1	5	0	2	6	0
Beth-Center	0	6	0	3	6	0

Monday

Carlynton 3, Charleroi 2
Springdale 8, Bentwood 1

Today

Brentwood at Monessen
Bentworth at Carlynton
C-Houston at Beth-Center

Girls' soccer standings

Class AAA
Section 5

	League W	League L	League T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Canon-McMillan	5	1	0	8	3	0
Upper St. Clair	5	1	0	5	3	0
Mt. Lebanon	4	1	0	6	3	0
Trinity	2	4	0	4	5	0
Ringgold	2	4	0	4	6	0
Elizabeth Forward	2	4	0	3	7	0
West Mifflin	0	5	0	1	7	0

Monday

Ringgold 2, Elizabeth Forward 1
Upper St. Clair 1, Mt. Lebanon 0
Canon-McMillan 8, Trinity 2

Wednesday

Canon-McMillan at Ringgold
Trinity at Mt. Lebanon
West Mifflin at Upper St. Clair

Section 6

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Belle Vernon Area	6	0	1	8	2	1
S'moreland	5	0	1	5	1	1
Waynesburg	4	3	0	5	5	0
Connellsville	4	3	0	5	6	0
Yough	3	4	0	5	5	0
Laurel Highlands	3	4	0	4	6	0
Uniontown	1	5	0	2	6	0
Albert Gallatin	0	7	0	0	9	0

Monday

BV Area 7, Yough 0
Waynesburg 11, Albert Gallatin 0
Laurel Highlands 3, Uniontown 2
S'moreland 7, Connellsville 1

Wednesday

BV Area at Laurel Highlands
Albert Gallatin at Yough
Uniontown at Connellsville
Waynesburg at S'moreland

Class AA
Section 1

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
South Park	6	0	0	8	1	0
South Fayette	5	1	0	6	2	1
McGuffey	4	2	0	5	4	0
Bentworth	3	3	0	6	4	0
Charleroi	2	4	0	5	6	0
C-Houston	1	5	0	1	9	0
Beth-Center	0	6	0	2	7	0

Monday

Bentworth 4, Beth-Center 1
McGuffey 5, C-Houston 1
South Park 7, South Fayette 2

Wednesday

Charleroi at Beth-Center
Bentworth at McGuffey
C-Houston at South Park

Section 6

	Sec. W	Sec. L	Sec. T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Geibel	5	1	0	7	3	0
Mt. Pleasant	5	1	0	7	2	0
Grb. Central	5	1	0	9	2	1
Jeannette	2	3	1	3	5	2
St. Joseph	1	4	0	2	6	0
Monessen	1	4	1	3	5	1
East Allegheny	0	5	0	1	6	0

Monday

Monessen 6, East Allegheny 1
Mt. Pleasant 4, Geibel 0
Grb. Central 7, Jeannette 0

Wednesday

St. Joseph at Monessen
Grb. Central at Mt. Pleasant
East Allegheny at Jeannette

NHL preseason

Monday's Games

Tappara (Finland) 3, Florida 2, SO
Chicago 9, HC Davos (Switzerland) 2

Today's Games

St. Louis vs. Linkoping HC (Sweden) at Linkoping, Sweden, 1 p.m.

Chicago vs. ZSC Lions (Switzerland) at Zurich, Switzerland, 2:15 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Latest Line

BEST BET: Minnesota is 10-1 its last 11 road games vs. a right-handed starter. The Twins are also 16-5 their last 21 games vs. an American League Central opponent and 20-7 their last 27 Tuesday games. Detroit is just 2-7 in Justin Verlander's last 9 starts vs. Minnesota and 0-5 in Verlander's last 5 starts during game two of a series. Take Minnesota over Detroit for another Best Bet winner.

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Sunday, Oct 4		
Week Four		
HOUSTON	9 1/2 (42)	Oakland
Tennessee	3 (41)	J'VILLE
N. ENGLAND	2 1/2 (44)	Baltimore
Cincinnati	5 1/2 (38)	CLEVELAND
NY Giants	9 (42)	KC
CHICAGO	10 (39)	Detroit
WASHINGTON	7 1/2 (37)	Tampa Bay
INDIANAPOLIS	7 1/2 (45)	Seattle
N. ORLEANS	6 1/2 (46)	NY Jets
Buffalo	3 (40)	MIAMI
SAN FRAN	10 (38)	St. Louis
Dallas	3 (45)	DENVER
PITTSBURGH	7 (43)	San Diego
Monday, Oct 5		
MINNESOTA	3 1/2 (46)	Green Bay

College Football

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Wednesday, Spet 30		
LA TECH	3 1/2	Hawaii
Thursday, Oct 1		
W. VIRGINIA	17	Colorado
So. Miss	6 1/2	ALA-BIRM.
Friday, Oct 2		
Pittsburgh	6	LOUISVILLE
BYU	24	Utah St
Saturday, Oct 3		
South Florida	7	SYRACUSE
East Carolina	3	MARSHALL
PURDUE	6 1/2	Northwestern
MINNESOTA	2	Wisconsin
WAKE FOREST	1	North Carolina St
Clemson	13 1/2	MARYLAND
N. CAROLINA	14	Virginia
Florida St	5	BOSTON COLL.
C. Michigan	9	BUFFALO
Toledo	7	BALL ST
Alabama	17	KENTUCKY
Mississippi	9 1/2	VANDERBILT
Cincinnati	26	MIAMI-OHIO
Temple	5	E. MICHIGAN
ARMY	6	Tulane
Virginia Tech	15 1/2	DUKE
NOTRE DAME	14	Washington
GEORGIA	2	Lsu
NAVY	4 1/2	Air Force
Georgia Tech	4 1/2	MISSISSIPPI ST
Oklahoma	6	MIAMI-FLORIDA
Penn St	6	ILLINOIS
Michigan	2	MICHIGAN ST
N. ILLINOIS	6 1/2	W. Michigan
BOWLING GR.	2 1/2	Ohio
NEVADA	4	Univ
Colorado St	4	IDAHO
a-Iowa St	2 1/2	Kansas St
ARIZONA ST	5	Oregon St
OREGON	30	Washington St
BAYLOR	21 1/2	Kent St
C. FLORIDA	8	Memphis
STANFORD	5 1/2	Ucla
TEXAS TECH	36	New Mexico
Ohio St	16	INDIANA
Tulsa	13	RICE
b-Arkansas	2	Texas A&M
TENNESSEE	2	Auburn
Southern Cal	6	CALIFORNIA
TCU	28	Smu
SAN DIEGO ST	16 1/2	New Mexico St
Houston	16	TEXAS EL PASO
IOWA	21	Arkansas St
FLA ATLANTIC	3 1/2	Wyoming
UL-MONROE	3	Fla International

a-at Kansas City, MO.
b-at Arlington, TX.

Baseball

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
National League		
PHILADELPHIA	11 1/2-13 1/2	Hous.
WASHINGTON	Even-6	NY Mets
ATLANTA	5 1/2-6 1/2	Florida
St. Louis	5 1/2-6 1/2	CIN.
CHICAGO	10-12	Pittsburgh
COLORADO	7 1/2-8 1/2	Milwaukee
LA Dodgers	5 1/2-6 1/2	S. DIEGO
SAN FRAN	5 1/2-6 1/2	Arizona
American League		
TAMPA BAY	9 1/2-10 1/2	Baltimore
DETROIT	7-8	Minnesota
CLEVELAND	Even-6	Chi White Sox
NY YANKEES	10-12	Kansas City
BOSTON	7-8	Toronto
LA ANGELS	5 1/2-6 1/2	Texas
SEATTLE	9-10	Oakland

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

PSAC football standings

West Division

	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
Edinboro	2	0	4	1
California	2	0	3	2
Mercyhurst	2	0	3	2
Slippery Rock	1	1	4	1
Clarion	1	1	2	3
Indiana	0	2	3	2
Gannon	0	2	2	3
Lock Haven	0	2	0	4

Saturday

1 p.m, - California at Indiana

2 p.m. - Gannon at Clarion; Mercyhurst at Slippery Rock; Lock Haven at Edinboro.

MLS standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	12	4	10	46	40	28
Chicago	10	6	11	41	38	33
New England	10	8	7	37	31	34
D.C.	8	7	12	36	40	40
Toronto FC	9	10	8	35	35	40
Kansas City	8	11	7	31	28	34
New York	4	17	6	18	22	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Houston	12	8	7	43	35	26
Los Angeles	10	6	11	41	33	31
Colorado	10	8	9	39	40	32
Seattle	9	7	11	38	32	26
Chivas USA	11	9	5	38	26	25
Real SaltLake	9	11	7	34	38	34
FC Dallas	8	12	6	30	44	43
San Jose	6	12	7	25	31	43

Wednesday

New England at FC Dallas, 7 p.m.

Friday

Chicago at Los Angeles, 11 p.m.

Saturday

Chivas USA at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle FC at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
New England at Colorado, 9 p.m.
New York at San Jose, 11 p.m.

Sunday

Kansas City at Houston, 3 p.m.

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	64	33
New England	2	1	0	.667	60	50
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	64	72
Miami	0	3	0	.000	43	69
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct

SPORTS

Penguins
(FROM PAGE ONE)

forward Petr Sykora. Despite being benched most of the playoffs because of a shoulder injury, Sykora scored 25 goals, third-most on the team. He also had 10 game-winning goals that represented nearly 1/4 of the Penguins' victories.

Sykora and Miroslav Satan (17 goals, 36 points) weren't offered new contracts.

The most significant pickups were shot-blocking defenseman Jay McKee and former Devils forward Mike Rupp. By signing Rupp, the Penguins have three of the last four players to score the game-winning goal in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals: Rupp, Ruslan Fedotenko (2004) and Max Talbot.

Talbot, who scored both goals as the Penguins won Game 7 in Detroit 2-1, will be out until at least mid-November with a shoulder injury, another loss offensively for a team that is heavily reliant on its two stars.

Goalie Marc-Andre Fleury played all but four of the Penguins' final 76 games.

Cowboys get first win at new stadium

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Tony Romo and Terence Newman have no apologies to make this time.

Like the rest of the Dallas Cowboys, especially a maligned defense, their second try at team owner Jerry Jones' new $1.15 billion showcase stadium had much better results: the best being a 21-7 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Monday night.

"I get frustrated and disappointed when I don't play up to what I think my standard is. That's why I come back with a purpose to improve, to get better," Romo said. "That was my sole focus this week. ... Not make those mistakes again and improve as a quarterback."

Romo certainly succeeded.

Eight nights after throwing three interceptions that the New York Giants turned into touchdowns on the way to a last-second-victory that spoiled the grand opening of Cowboys Stadium, Romo was 22 of 33 for 255 yards. More importantly, he had no turnovers.

And Newman, who like Romo apologized for his own poor performance against the Giants, returned an interception 27 yards for a lead-stretching touchdown with 5 minutes left — though that wasn't the last stellar defensive play for the Cowboys (2-1).

"It was a lucky play on my part," Newman said.

Steve Smith, the intended receiver of Jake Delhomme's pass, insisted that he was to blame because he changed the route he was supposed to run.

However it happened, Newman's touchdown finally let the crowd of 90,588 and Jones exhale with a huge sigh of relief. And begin celebrating the first victory at the new stadium, where they won't play again until Oct. 25 with consecutive road games and their bye week coming up.

"It certainly does feel good," Jones said. "The way it went so early, it just felt like maybe we ought to check this thing out for Grim Reapers living in the back someplace."

Rookie linebacker Victor Butler sacked Jake Delhomme twice on the ensuing series, forcing a fumble with a minute left.

The Cowboys defense that led the NFL with 59 sacks last season entered Week 3 as the only team without a sack or a takeaway. They had three of each against Carolina, which after going 12-4 and winning the NFC South title last season is headed into its bye week 0-3.

"It's hard to take time off now because we are winless," said Dante Rosario, whose 25-yard TD catch came just before halftime.

LaRoche homers twice in 11-1 win

PITTSBURGH (AP) — This couldn't-get-any-easier clinching is becoming very hard for the Los Angeles Dodgers. They'll be playing one of the NL's best clubs in another week, yet they suddenly can't beat the league's worst.

Former Dodgers prospect Andy LaRoche homered twice, doubled twice and singled, driving in six runs as the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates again prevented Los Angeles from winning the NL West with an 11-1 romp Monday.

Zach Duke pitched shutout ball into the ninth inning against a patchwork Dodgers lineup, with manager John Russell drawing loud boos for pulling him one out away from a complete game. LaRoche set a career high for hits and RBIs in going 5 for 5 and scoring four runs.

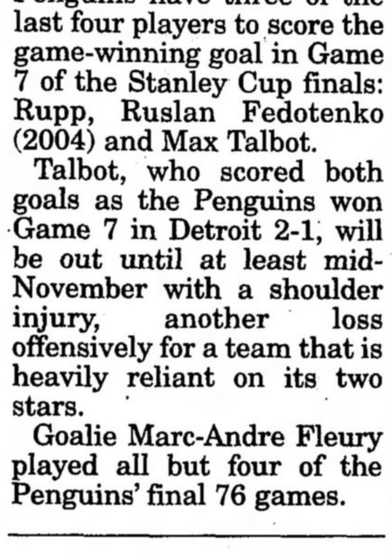
Already assured of a playoff spot, the Dodgers lost three of four to the Pirates, who had dropped 23 of 26 going into the series — the franchise's worst stretch in 119 seasons. The Dodgers went 3-4 on a road trip against the majors' two worst teams, the Nationals and Pirates.

It was no day at the beach for the Dodgers, even if it might have resembled one as wind gusts of up to 30 mph created huge whitecaps on the Allegheny River behind PNC Park's right-field stands.

Orlando Hudson was caught in a rundown trying to advance on an errant throw in the first. In the second, Loretta was picked off first and Matt Kemp was caught too far off second on James Loney's popup and was thrown out.

"The first couple of innings, the baserunning was terrible," Torre said. "I have no excuse for it."

REMEMBER when?



Charleroi's Lou Rawls was the Mon Valley Conference scoring champ in 1966 with 79 points.

SPORTS DIGEST

Charleroi loses to Carlynton

In a showdown of two of the Class A Section 4's top two teams, Charleroi dropped a 3-2 decision to visiting and front-running Carlynton.

Brent Nucci and Josh Granato scored for the Cougars (7-3, 4-2), who had a four-game winning streak snapped.

"We played well but not well enough to win," said Charleroi coach George Watkins. "We will have to bounce back."

The win was the seventh in a row for Carlynton (8-1, 6-0). Charleroi resumes Thursday at Brentwood.

BVA volleyballers lose to Beth-Center

Belle Vernon Area High's volleyball team was 3-0 loser to Beth-Center.

Looking best for the Lady Leps in 25-17, 25-14 and 25-18 defeats were Justina Szakal (7 kills), Michelle Baxendell (5 aces) and Bryanna Lewis (2 blocks).

BVA booters blank Baldwin

Josh Page, David Wurmliger and David Kost each had two goals to led Belle Vernon Area Junior High's soccer team to a 7-0 win over Baldwin. Anthony Zenobi had the other goal for the Little Leps (3-1), who host Charleroi today at 7 p.m.

Pirates keep losing PNC fans

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates keep piling up the losing seasons, and keep losing fans.

The Pirates' home attendance of 1,577,853 this season was their lowest in the nine seasons since PNC Park opened in 2001. The previous low was 1,583,031 in 2004.

The 122-year-old franchise hasn't drawn so few fans since they drew 1,560,950 to Three Rivers Stadium in 1998. They attracted 171,055 fewer fans this season than they did in their final season in Three Rivers in 2000.

The average attendance was 19,480 for 81 home dates. The Pirates lost no home games to rain, although one was rescheduled, and played no home doubleheaders.

The Pirates are 59-96 with seven road games to play during their a record 17th consecutive losing season, the most of any franchise in the four major North American pro sports leagues.

Dislocated shoulder for Pennington

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Miami Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington dislocated his right shoulder and may seek a second opinion to determine how long he'll be sidelined, a person familiar with his status said.

The person insisted on anonymity because the Dolphins have said little about the injury. Backup Chad Henne is expected to make his first NFL start in Sunday's home game against Buffalo.

Pennington hurt his shoulder Sunday in a 23-13 loss at San Diego, and he underwent tests to determine the extent of the damage. An operation on the shoulder would be Pennington's third since 2005. Several media outlets reported Pennington had a torn capsule and was likely to miss the rest of the season.

Trivia answer

Ben Roethlisberger, Charlie Batch, Tommy Maddox, Neil O'Donnell, Kordell Stewart, Mike Tomczak, Kent Graham, Jim Miller and Bubby Brister.

Lady Leps win big

Kovalchuk, Heck each score twice in 7-0 romp at Yough.

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

The weather may be cooling off but the Belle Vernon Area High girls' soccer team isn't in 'Class AAA Section 6.

The Lady Leps upped their winning streak to six with a 7-0 win at Yough Monday night, raising their section mark to 6-0-1 and overall slate to 8-2-1.

BVA has outscored its section opponents, 41-2.

"We really finished well and took advantage of our opportunities," said BVA coach Paul Sasko. "We're hurting a little right now, so hopefully we can continue to play well until we get healthy."

Lauren Kovalchuk and Kylee Heck each scored a pair of goals with Marla Sasko, Caitlin Pasternak and Michelle Miele getting the other scores.

The Lady Leps open the second half of section play Wednesday at Laurel Highlands.

Monessen 6, East Allegheny 1

The Lady Greyhounds (3-5-1, 1-4-1) snapped a three-game losing skid for their first Class AA Section 6 win under first-year coach Chris Duda.

Natawsja Sosnak led the way with two goals. Tequerra Turner, Alex Peckyno, Desiree Rice, and Shaniqua Hall each added one.

"We played real well and we moved to the ball," said Duda. "I expect a lot more out of them for the second half of the season."

Monessen hosts St. Joseph Wednesday.

Ringgold 2, Elizabeth Forward 1

The Lady Rams posted their first home win in the Class AAA Section 5 contest.

Michelle Bassi and Amy Bracken had the goals for Ringgold (4-6, 2-4).

"This was a very hard-fought and evenly match game," said Ringgold coach Tom Cameron.

The Lady Rams host Canon-McMillan Wednesday.

Elizabeth slipped to 3-7 an 2-4 in the section.

Steelers (FROM PAGE ONE)

going 12-4 and winning three postseason games.

Jeff Reed missed two field goals inside the 40 against the Bears. Limas Sweed landed in the end zone with a touchdown catch in his grasp in Cincinnati and let the ball slip away. The Bengals — who hadn't beaten the Steelers in their own stadium in eight years — converted a critical fourth-and-10 to keep their game-winning, 71-yard drive going.

"We need to finish football games better," coach Mike Tomlin said. "That's the mark of a champion, and that's not us at this point."

What's happening can't be blamed entirely on All-Pro safety Troy Polamalu being injured, although the impact of his loss has been magnified the last two weeks.

Or on second-year running back Rashard Mendenhall so irritating Tomlin in practice last week that he never carried the ball in Cincinnati.

It's more than not paying attention to details, or not making enough big plays on defense, or Ben Roethlisberger throwing an interception for a touchdown because Santonio Holmes runs the wrong pass route.

As the Steelers themselves said, they're not being the Steelers.

"We have to get back to whatever we were doing to win games," cornerback Deshea Townsend said. "We have to find ways to get close as a defensive unit and figure out ways to get off the field."

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

The Pittsburgh Pirates led the National League East by a half-game over Montreal following a 9-1 loss to St. Louis.

20 Years Ago

Mike Posey scored two goals to lead Belle Vernon Area to a 3-2 win over Charleroi.

Pam Mountsier scored both goals as Charleroi downed Elizabeth Forward, 2-1, to move into a second place tie with Ringgold in Section 5.

Pitt (3-0) climbed from 13th to 10th in the rankings after dropping Syracuse, 30-24.

10 Years Ago

The Pittsburgh Steelers' Amos Zereoue wads charged with drunk driving.

John Eckert scored both goals in the first half to lead Charleroi to a 7-0 win over Monessen.

Mike Seydor had a pair of goals for Belle Vernon Area in a 3-3 tie with Elizabeh Forward.

Please cut on dotted line.

Week 4 Games of Oct. 1-4	
16	
15	
14	
13	
12	
11	
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	

136 TOTAL POINTS

Name _____
Address _____
City, State (zip) _____
Day Phone ( ) _____
Night Phone ( ) _____

HOW TO PLAY

Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter.

To enter, fill out this form and return to the address at right.

LIMIT: You may enter only one coupon per week.

DEADLINE: Noon Thursday

TIEBREAKER 1 ☐ Total points scored (both teams) in BROWNS game

TIEBREAKER 2 ☐ Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Detroit at Chicago
Oakland at Houston
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Baltimore at New England
Buffalo at Miami
Dallas at Denver
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Cincinnati at Cleveland
St. Louis at San Francisco
Seattle at Indianapolis
NY Giants at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Washington
NY Jets at New Orleans
Penn St. at Illinois
Pitt at Louisville
Colorado at W. Virginia

MAIL YOUR ENTRY TO:
PowerPoints
c/oTrib Total Media
503 Martindale St.
D.L. Clark Bldg.
Suite 250
Pittsburgh,
PA 15212

Weekly Prizes include
ONE (1) **$500** Local Grand Prize Winner!

THREE (3) **$50** Randomly Drawn Winners!

QUESTIONS?
Contact
Tiffany Rocco
412-320-7803

1407852

•••• POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES ••••

1. Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 weekly points as you can. Simply review the week's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SURest of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected winner on the 16-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a tossup. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If this step fails to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in the game. If a winner still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held among those contestants still tied. Decisions of the judges are final. The weekly contest(s) from among all participating newspapers who tallies the most of the 136 points will win $1000. Local prizes to be decided by newspapers.
2. Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified.
3. Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants of New York, and other similar-sounding team names/games.
4. No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week.
5. Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permission by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used by news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge.
6. Employees of the newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.
7. Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.
8. No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest (mailing) to address above.
9. Weekly deadline for entry will be NOON Thursday except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form.
10. Neither the newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way or entries mis-directed or entered postage due or for any claim or injury by contestants made in connection to any activity associated in entering contest. Entrants assume all liabilities.
11. Limit one entry per person per week. Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant. "group" entries, "systems" or other attempt to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Faxing out extra forms and putting your friends and relatives names on them violates the rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.
12. Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play.

COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

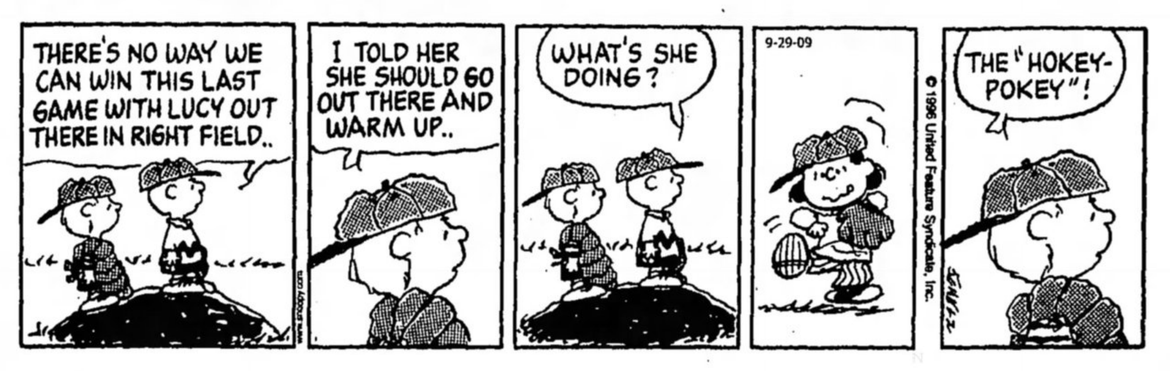
I THOUGHT WE WERE TONING IT DOWN THIS YEAR.
HOO, BOY...NO! "TONING IT DOWN" WAS THE LOOK OF LAST DECADE'S RECESSION!
HOT!
REMEMBER THE BEIGE YEARS?
THIS DECADE'S RECESSION IS ALL ABOUT HOT HUES, HAUTE GLAM AND SKY HIGH HEELS!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR ECONOMIC TIMES!
EXACTLY! MATCHING WAS SO 1991!
HOT!

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

GENE, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, MOM!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT AT SCHOOL?
EVERYTHING IS FINE!
YOU AND MARY LOU ARE OK?
SURE, MOM
IT'S LATE! WE GET 17 MORE QUESTIONS IN THE MORNING!

Classic **PEANUTS®** by Charles M. Schulz


THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN THIS LAST GAME WITH LUCY OUT THERE IN RIGHT FIELD..
I TOLD HER SHE SHOULD GO OUT THERE AND WARM UP..
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
9-29-09
THE "HOKEY-POKEY"!

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD KEEP A DOG IN THE BARRACKS, SARGE
I BELIEVE HAVING A PET MAKES THE MEN HAPPIER, SIR
9-29
THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT, FREDDIE?
TRUE
GREG+ MORT WALKER

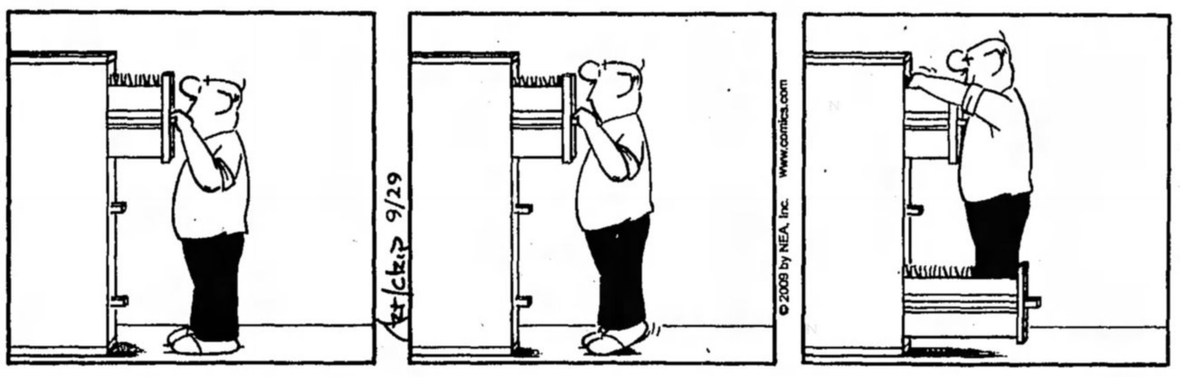
HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

I SAW THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS COMING LONG BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DID.
HOW?
THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF "PAST DUE" NOTICES.
9-29

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

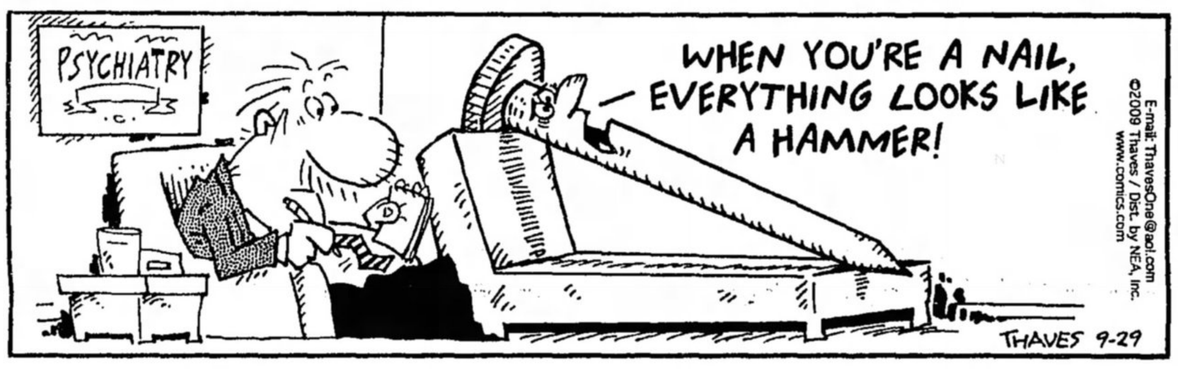
LOOK, THIS IS JUST YOU AND I TALKING, RIGHT?
YOU BET... WE'RE JUST SHOOTING THE BREEZE... NO ONE EVER HAS TO KNOW
IN THAT CASE, I GUESS MY FAVORITE ONE WAS THE CONSTRUCTION WORKER
I KNEW IT! I'D HAVE TO GO WITH EITHER THE COWBOY OR THE COP OR THE GUY IN THE NAVY SUIT
9/29



FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves

BLONDIE® by Young and Marshall

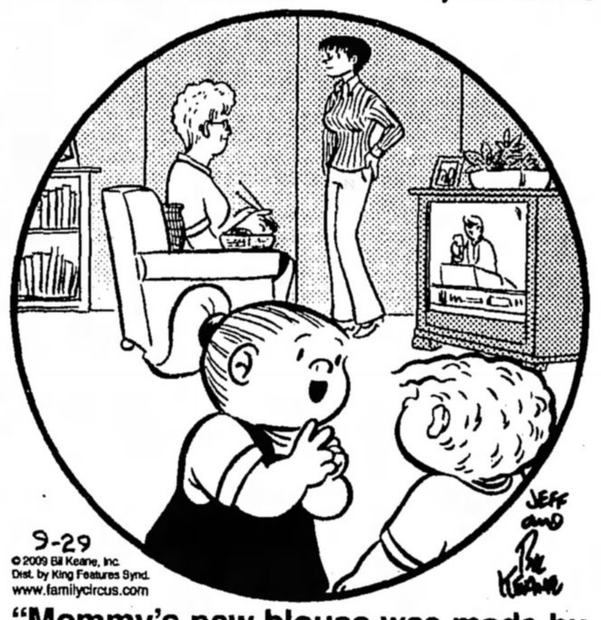
HOW'S SCHOOL GOING THIS YEAR, ELMO?
THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE TO GET GOOD GRADES, MR. B.
SOMETIMES I'M TORN BETWEEN BUCKLING DOWN AND STUDYING REALLY HARD...
OR ORGANIZING A CLASS-ACTION SUIT AGAINST MY SCHOOL
9-29



SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Mommy's new blouse was made by two ladies — Polly and Esther."

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

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email: soupOnutz@cox.net
"NATE FOR PRESIDENT"? HEY, AREN'T YOU THE MORON WHO GOT A "12" ON THE LAST SCIENCE TEST?
NO, I'M THE FREE-THINKING REBEL WHO REFUSES TO BE DEFINED BY OBSOLETE ACADEMIC CRITERIA.
HEH HEH... I LIKE THAT, DUDE. I LIKE THAT.
IT WORKED!
ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR CAMPAIGN MANAGER.
VOTE 4 NATE

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

RUSTY, THIS IS MR. JACKSON...HE'S FISHING IN THE SWAMP ALSO!
JACK ELROD
I OFTEN HEAR SHOTS IN THE SWAMP AND I JUST IGNORE THEM... THERE IS A LOT OF POACHING GOING ON!
RUSTY, IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU, YOUNG FELLOW!
THE POACHERS USUALLY TRY TO AVOID PEOPLE FISHING IN THE SWAMP...THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE A WILDLIFE RANGER!
9-29
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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	6		4		8			
4				7		9		
					9		5	
1				3		6		2
	2						4	
9		8		6				1
	3		6					
		7		4				5
			8		1		7	

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Difficulty Level ★★ 9/29

Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	6	4	3	5	2	9	7
3	5	9	2	6	7	1	4	8
4	2	7	1	8	9	5	6	3
5	6	4	3	7	1	9	8	2
2	9	3	6	5	8	7	1	4
7	8	1	9	4	2	3	5	6
1	3	5	8	2	4	6	7	9
6	7	8	5	9	3	4	2	1
9	4	2	7	1	6	8	3	5

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Difficulty Level ★ 9/29

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 EMT course
4 Ms. Thurman
7 Diva's tune
11 Mr. Majors
12 Gave a buzz
14 Saddle part
15 Java brewer
16 Grill steaks
17 Plaid wearers
18 Gautama —
20 Parthenon goddess
22 Feel crummy
23 Chimp abode
24 Lustrous material
27 News story
30 Big birds
31 "One of —"
32 Mate's comeback
34 Tricycle rider
35 Tentacles
36 Brace for trouble
37 Groundswells
39 Flies alone
40 — out (relax)
41 Core
42 Sagebrush State
45 Drone's home
49 Almond-shaped
50 New Balance rival
52 Lose — — whisker
53 In — (as found)
54 Done with
55 Gentle bear
56 If not
57 Gridiron meas.
58 Say please

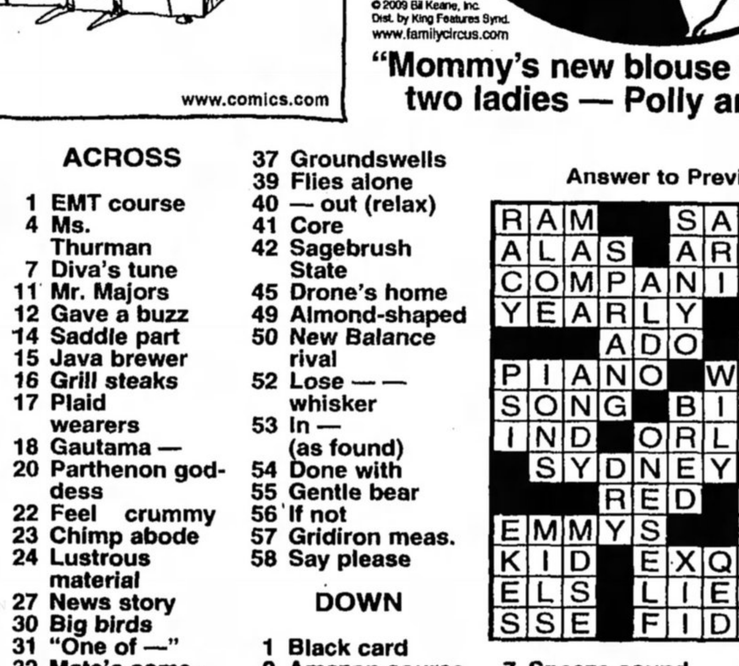
DOWN

1 Black card
2 Amazon source
3 Rip apart
4 Ragamuffin
5 Taj —
6 Literary miscellany
7 Sneeze sound
8 Cameo, maybe
9 Oil producer
10 Tolstoy heroine
13 Cows and sheep
19 Podium
21 Tees and tubes
24 Jell
25 Maj. — Hoople
26 "Swan Lake" costume
27 Pirates' quaffs
28 Travel choice
29 Novice
31 Kitchen herb
33 Newsroom VIPs
35 Matured
36 Mongolian desert
38 Insulation meas. (hyph.)
39 Bldg. custodians
41 Like a Renoir model
42 Cyrano's despair
43 Sinister
44 Large tubs
46 "Fernando" band
47 Deli breads
48 Pull
51 Dorm coverer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	M			S	A	L	T		J	E	T
A	L	A	S		A	R	E	A		E	C	O
C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N		E	R	G
Y	E	A	R	L	Y			G	U	R	U	S
			A	D	O		X	L	S			
P	I	A	N	O		W	R	E	A	T	H	
S	O	N	G		B	I	A	S		H	E	W
I	N	D		O	R	L	Y		W	I	F	E
	S	Y	D	N	E	Y		L	A	S	T	S
			R	E	D		R	E	B			
E	M	M	Y	S			E	V	A	D	E	D
K	I	D		E	X	Q	U	I	S	I	T	E
E	L	S		L	I	E	S		H	O	N	E
S	S	E		F	I	D	E			R	A	P

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Disabled daughter can't escape from mother's violent anger

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: I need your help badly.

I am 39 years old and live with my mother due to a physical disability.

Mom becomes violent when she gets mad or upset.

If she's having a bad day, I can expect her to be in my face (literally).

She yells and screams, and if I refuse to yell back at her or try to ignore her — the only way I know how to deal with the situation — she gets even madder.

I have suggested counseling, but she insists that she is fine and that I'm the one who needs the help.

What do I do?

I can't keep on this way, and I am unable to go anywhere. — **CAN'T STAND THE VIOLENCE**

DEAR CAN'T: Your mother is an emotional mess, but she is half-right.

You DO need help.

And the place you can get it is the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA).

It's an organization that has been around for 20 years — and has members in all 50 states as well as Canada.

Here's how to find them: Go to www.apsnetwork.org. Next, click on "Report Abuse," then click on your state.

Your mother needs help, too, and the people at Adult Protective Services can help her face that reality.

Please write again and let me know how you're doing. I care.

DEAR ABBY: The day before my wedding, my fiance's aunt left me a gift. After the wedding I opened it and read the card that was enclosed. It was lingerie, which seemed like a well-intentioned gift.

The card, however, was a bit puzzling. Turns out the lingerie was her own, and slightly used. On the card she said it had been "only used a few times." It struck me as inappropriate to receive "used" (and wrong-sized) lingerie from a new aunt-in-law. However, I do believe she was well-intentioned.

Abby, her gift made me uncomfortable. Am I wrong in thinking it was inappropriate? Any thoughts on how to write a thank-you card for such a gift? — **FLUMMOXED IN THE USA**

DEAR FLUMMOXED: This new relative may be a "character," or she may not have had the means to buy you a wedding gift and gave you the nicest thing she could come up with.

My advice is to be gracious. Do not tell her the lingerie is the wrong size or criticize it in any way. Simply say: "Thank you for welcoming me into the family. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated, and I look forward to getting to know you in the years to come."

DEAR ABBY: With the support of my friend "Lynn," I left "Stephanie," my wife of 17 years — after she admitted to more than two dozen affairs over the course of our marriage. I am now in a relationship with Lynn and very happy.

My problem is my kids think I left Stephanie for Lynn because that is what their mother has told them. As much as I despise what my wife has done, I would never tell them the truth. I tell them Mommy and Daddy had their "differences," but they know there is more to the story. Please advise. — **ALMOST HAPPILY EVER AFTER IN UTAH**

DEAR ALMOST: Mommy and Daddy did, indeed, have their differences. And there is also more to the story. If Lynn hadn't been there supporting you, would you still be tolerating Stephanie's serial infidelity? If the answer is yes, then in a sense, you did leave Stephanie for Lynn, which may have been healthier for all concerned. But since your children already know there is more to the story, tell them you'll tell them the rest of it when they are older if they still want to know. And when they're adults, if they do, follow through.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-

TUESDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	(2) KDKA-TV News at Six (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 6	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric (7) Entertainment (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N) (7) Inside Edition (N) (10) Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Reunion" An investigation seems linked to the past. (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "The Only Easy Day" Sam's former colleagues are involved in the case of a murdered drug dealer. (N)		The Good Wife "Stripped" Alicia represents a stripper who says she was raped. (N)		(2) KDKA-TV News at 11 (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 11	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman Kelsey Grammer; Miranda Lambert. (N)		(:37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson James Spader; Cobie Smulders. (N)		(2) (:37) Extra (7) (:37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (:37) Paid Programming	(2) (:07) Party Food Ideas! (10) (:07) Paid Programming	(2) (:37) Paid Programming (7) (10) (:37) Up to the Minute (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) Action News at 6 (23) Deal No	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition Victoria Gotti. (23) Jeopardy!	(4) Entertainment Tonight (23) Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank A college student pitches a product made from soy. (N)		Dancing With the Stars Celebrity is eliminated. (Live)		the forgotten "Diamond Jane" Team tries to solve the murder of a Jane Doe. (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (23) News	(:35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Ricky Gervais; Alice in Chains. (N)		(4) (:06) Oprah Winfrey (23) (:06) Paid Programming	(23) (:36) RENO 911! Williams discovers Islam.	(:06) Paid Programming	(4) Action News at 11 (23) Paid Prog
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	(6) WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) (9) News (N) (11) Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N) (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune	The Biggest Loser Contestants get an offer that is very hard to refuse. (N)				The Jay Leno Show Julia Louis-Dreyfus; Billy Crystal. (N)		(6) WJAC-TV News (9) News (11) Ch. 11 News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien John Krasinski; Patton Oswalt; Quinn Dahle. (N)		(:37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Jude Law; Felicia Day. (N)		(:36) Last Call With Carson Daly Tucker Max; Wild Light. (N)	(:05) Poker After Dark Howard Lederer; Marco Traniello; Dario Minieri; Erick Lindgren; Max Pescatori; Chris Ferguson. (N)	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) Seinfeld (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) The Simpsons (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) That '70s Show (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) My Name Is Earl (53) Seinfeld	Hell's Kitchen The chefs attempt to create a dish that looks as good as it tastes. (N)		So You Think You Can Dance Dancers from across the country audition. (N)		(8) News (53) Channel 11 News	(8) (:35) My Name Is Earl (Part 1 of 2)	(8) (:05) Everybody Loves Raymond (53) Seinfeld	(8) (:35) Seinfeld (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (53) Frasier	(53) Is Colon Detox Hype? Internal cleansing.	(8) (:05) Paid Programming (53) Paid Programming	(8) (:35) Paid Programming (53) Free Money	(8) Dual Saw (53) Lopez	(8) Paid Program (53) House of Payne
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ	The National Parks: America's Best Idea The National Park Service is established in 1916; Grand Canyon. (N)				The Mystery of George Masa (DVS)		Charlie Rose (N)			OnQ	Smart Travels	The National Parks: America's Best Idea The National Park Service is established in 1916; Grand Canyon.		
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		The Office	The Office	90210 "The Porn King" (N)		Melrose Place "Vine" (N)		10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Everybody-Raymond	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park "Preschool"	Paid Programming	Paid Programming	Paid Programming
(22) WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	Smarter	Smarter	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Law & Order: SVU		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Net Millions	Look Thin	Bernie Mac	My Wife	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		Travel Road	Master	Lakewood	Joni, Frnds	Discovery	Quick Study	Nwswtch	The Place for Miracles		Master	Focus 4		Gaither Homecoming Hour	
(59) WBGN	Punk'd	Sports Talk	Sports Talk		Eye Eye	RENO 911!	Laguna	RENO 911!	★★★ "Hoosiers" (1986, Drama) Gene Hackman.				Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
A&E	CSI: Miami "Extreme"		Criminal Minds		The First 48		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	The First 48		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
ABCFAM	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	'70s Show	'70s Show	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club		Greek		Paid Prog	INSTYLER	Paid Prog	Net Millions
AMC	(5:30) ★★★ "Under the Tuscan Sun" (2003, Romance)				★★★ "Any Given Sunday" (1999, Drama) Al Pacino, Cameron Diaz, Dennis Quaid.							★★★ "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang" (2005) Val Kilmer				Mad Men		Rookie-Year
ANPL	Untamed and Uncut		Piranhas		Weird, True	Weird, True	Weird, True	Weird, True	Lost Tapes	Lost Tapes	Weird, True	Weird, True	Lost Tapes	Lost Tapes	Weird, True	Weird, True	Piranhas	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den (N)		BBC World News America		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live "Derek Luke"				The Game	The Game	The Game	The Game	Frankie	Frankie	The Wendy Williams Show		The Game	The Game	The Game	The Game	The Wendy Williams Show	
BRAVO	Kathy Griffin		Kathy Griffin		Flipping Out "Jenni 911"		Flipping Out		Flipping Out (N)		Flipping Out		Top Chef: Las Vegas		★★ "A Perfect Murder" (1998) Michael Douglas.			
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home		Smarter	Smarter	The Singing Bee		★★ "Overboard" (1987, Comedy) Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell.				Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	★★ "Overboard" (1987, Comedy) Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell.				
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow Report		Biography		Executive Vision		Cruise Inc.: Big Money		Mad Money		Fast Money		Executive Vision		Net Millions	Paid Prog
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	RENO 911!	Tosh.0	Daily Show	Colbert	Scrubs	Scrubs	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Daily Show	Colbert	South Park	South Park	Futurama	Daily Show	Colbert	Martin
CSPAN	(5:00) House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		Deadliest Catch		Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		Deadliest Catch		Cash Cab	Cash Cab
DISNEY	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	Suite Life	"Agent Cody Banks 2"			Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	That's-Raven	Life Derek	Cory	Replace	Kim Possible	Emperor	Dragon
E!	(5:00) Christina Aguilera		E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Jenna Jameson: The E! True Hollywood Story				Take Miami	Take Miami	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Kourtney	Take Miami	Take Miami	Kendra	Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)			NFL Live	2009 World Series of Poker		2009 World Series of Poker		Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter (Live)		Baseball	NFL Live (N)	SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)	
ESPNC	College Football		Bid Wars	Bid Wars	Boxing: Bruno vs. Lewis		PBA Bowling		PBA Bowling		AWA Wrestling		American Gladiators		Boxing		Cassius Clay	Boxing
ESPN2	Horn	Interruption	Football Live	Shootaround	WNBA Basketball Finals Game 1 -- Teams TBA.				Homecoming With R. Reilly		PBA Bowling	PBA Bowling	SportsNation (Live)		NASCAR	2009 World Series of Poker		World Series
EWTN	Choices	Human	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope		Christ in City	Priesthood	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Threshold of Hope	
FNC	Special Report		FOX Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		Hannity (N)		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		Glenn Beck	
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge		Cakes	Cakes	Unwrapped	Best Thing	Chopped "Bring It!"		Good Eats	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Best Thing	Chopped "Bring It!"		Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Spotlight	Mike Tomlin	Steelers	Pregame	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago.						Pirates Post.	Final Score	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs.				Final Score	Final Score
FX	(5:30) ★★ "Tears of the Sun" (2003) Bruce Willis.				★★ "The Transporter" (2002) Jason Statham, Shu Qi.				Sons of Anarchy "Eureka"		(:02) Sons of Anarchy		'70s Show	'70s Show	(:01) Sons of Anarchy		Paid Prog	Hair Club
GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	Lessons	Inside PGA	Approach	Top 10	Top 10 (N)	Top 10	Big Break	Golf Videos	Approach	Golf Central	Top 10	Top 10	Big Break	Golf Videos	Approach	Inside PGA
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal		Family Feud	Family Feud	Newlywed	Catch 21	Millionaire	Lingo	Deal or No Deal		Be a Millionaire		Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV	To Sell	Ext Living	House	House	First Place	First Place	House	Bang, Buck	House	Property	Intervention	First Place	House	Bang, Buck	House	Property	Intervention	First Place
HIST	The Universe		Modern Marvels "Lead"		The Universe		The Universe (N)		How the Earth Was Made		That's Impossible		(12:01) The Universe		(:01) The Universe		How the Earth Was Made	
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Medium		Medium "The Whole Truth"		Medium "Better Off Dead"		Medium		Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy		Ab Secrets
MSNBC	The Ed Show (N)		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show	
MTV	Disaster	Popzilla (N)	Pranked	The Hills	The Hills	The Hills	The Hills		The Hills	The City	The Hills	The City	Best Dance Crew		Disaster	Popzilla	The Hills	The City
NICK	iCarly	Jackson	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
OXY	★★ "The Notebook" (2004, Romance) Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams.						Naughty Kitchen		Naughty Kitchen		Naughty Kitchen		The Tyra Show		The Tyra Show		Naughty Kitchen	
PCN	PCN Tours		PCN Call-In (Live)		PCN Primetime - pcntv.com				PCN Evening - pcntv.com				PCN Late Night - pcntv.com				Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now		News	Healthcare	NightTalk		PCNC News		NightTalk		Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News		Paid Prog	NightTalk	
SPIKE	★★ "Rocky IV" (1985) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire.				UFC Unleashed		DEA		DEA "Up the Ladder"		Surviving Disaster (N)		DEA "Deadly Chase"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager	
SYFY	Stargate SG-1		Warehouse 13 "Burnout"		Warehouse 13 "Implosion"		Warehouse 13 "Duped"		ECW Hell in a Cell preview.		"I Am Omega" (2007) Mark Dacascos, Geoff Mead.				Lost "... And Found"		The X-Files	
TBS	Seinfeld	The Office	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	★★ "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid"				Steve Harvey
TCM	"The Law and the Lady"		The MGM Story		★★★ "The Bride Wore Black" (1968) Jeanne Moreau.				★★★ "The Road Builder" (1971) Patricia Neal.				★★★ "Obsession" (1976, Suspense) Cliff Robertson.				★★★★ "Taxi Driver"	
TLC	Dress	Dress	Ultimate Cake Off		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	18 Kids	18 Kids	Growing Up Tiny: Kenadie		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	18 Kids	18 Kids	Growing Up Tiny: Kenadie		Ultimate Cake Off	
TNT	Bones "The He in the She"		Bones		Bones		Bones		HawthoRNe "Trust Me"		Saving Grace		HawthoRNe "Trust Me"		Saving Grace		Cold Case "Family"	
TOON	Scooby Doo!	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	Star Wars	Total Drama	Stoked	6TEEN	King of Hill	King of Hill	Family Guy	Family Guy	Chicken	Hungerforce	The Oblongs	Home	King of Hill	King of Hill
TRAVEL	Zimmern's Bizarre World		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Zimmern's Bizarre World		Zimmern's Bizarre World		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Zimmern's Bizarre World	
TRUTV	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Rehab: Party at Hard Rock		Rehab: Party at Hard Rock		Rehab: Party at Hard Rock		Forensic	Forensic	The Investigators		The Investigators		Rehab: Party at Hard Rock	
TVLAND	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne
USA	NCIS "My Other Left Foot"		NCIS "Smoked"		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI		Psych		★★★ "Open Range" (2003) Robert Duvall.			
VH1	Behind	Real Chance of Love		★ "Coyote Ugly" (2000) Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia, Maria Bello.					Tool Academy		My Antonio		Real Chance of Love		Eddie Griffin	Advisory	Behind the Music	
VS.	Sports Soup	Sports Take	Sports	Sports	★★★ "Slap Shot" (1977) Paul Newman, Michael Ontkean.					Sports Soup	Quest	Sports	★★★ "Slap Shot" (1977) Paul Newman, Michael Ontkean.					Sports Soup
WE	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Ghost Whisperer		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women (N)		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women	
WGN	Becker	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago.						WGN News	Scrubs	South Park	South Park	Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Bob & Tom Show	
ENC	America	★★ "Beethoven" (1992) Charles Grodin.			★★ "Vantage Point" (2008)				(:35) ★★★ "Kiss of Death" (1995) David Caruso.			(:20) ★★★ "Scream" (1996) Neve Campbell.				(:20) ★★ "Southland Tales" (2006)		
HBO	★★ "Meet Dave" (2008) Eddie Murphy.		Curb		REAL Sports		★★★ "Wanted" (2008, Action) James McAvoy.				Entourage	Curb-Enthsm	Joe Buck Live		★★★★ "Children of Men" (2006) Clive Owen.			
MAX	(5:50) ★ "American Outlaws" (2001)		★★★★ "The Dark Knight" (2008) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger.						★★ "Body of Lies" (2008) Leonardo DiCaprio.				(12:10) Lingerie		"Substitute 4: Failure"			Deception
SHOW	Live Free	★★ "I Witness" (2003) Jeff Daniels. iTV.			(:15) ★★ "The Eye" (2008) Jessica Alba. iTV.				Dexter "Living the Dream"		Californ	Californ	★★ "Kalifornia" (1993) Brad Pitt, Juliette Lewis. iTV.				"Foreign Exchange" (2008)	
STARZ	(5:05) "30 Days of Night"		(:05) ★★ "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" (2008)				★★★ "Cadillac Records" (2008) Adrien Brody.				(10:50) ★★★ "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" (2008)						(:20) ★★★ "Apocalypto" (2006)	
TMC	Woman	★ "Caffeine" (2006) Mena Suvari.			★ "Bless the Child" (2000) Kim Basinger, Jimmy Smits.				"Virgin Territory" (2007, Drama)			(:40) ★★ "S.F.W." (1994) Stephen Dorff.			(:15) ★★★ "Into the Wild" (2007) Emile Hirsch.			

HOTFACTS
by YAHOO! hotjobs

of new grads say benefits are their top priority in accepting a job.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs college survey, May 2007

Boost your benefits by finding a job at PAJobMatch.com

FEATURES

Frugal Living

Make frugal Halloween costumes

Sara **NOEL**

Halloween costumes can be pricey.

If you have more than one child, you can end up paying a small fortune. Kids wear them for a day and then hang them in the closet. Savvy shoppers buy costumes on clearance for the following year.

Some costumes can be passed on to another child, swapped with friends or family, or used for dress-up boxes. But you can make unique and easy homemade costumes, too. It'll cost much less than you'll pay in retail stores.

You might have some of the supplies already, and any remaining won't break the bank. Sweat suits make a great foundation for a variety of fun costumes, so you don't have to resort to a white-sheet ghost costume.

One reader, Cheryl in North Carolina, shares: "Make a simple bunny costume: pink sweats with bought bunny ears. Paint whiskers on the face, and attach a cotton puff for the tail. Or a sheep costume: black or white sweats with cotton balls attached."

What types of homemade costumes have you made? Here are a few ideas.

KERMIT THE FROG: Use a green sweat suit as the base for the costume. Use a set that has a hooded sweatshirt. Buy white and lime-green felt and peel-and-stick Velcro. Refer to a picture of Kermit for inspiration. Form rounded circles from the white felt. Stuff with batting.

Using a permanent marker, draw eyes (circle with two lines extending out from both sides). Attach with Velcro onto the top of the hood. Cut triangles from the lime felt, and using Velcro, attach them around the neck of the hoodie.

CUPCAKE: Use a pink sweat suit (hooded top). You'll need aluminum foil, a large red pompon or a Styrofoam ball and red spray paint (cherry), brown pipe cleaner (cherry stem), assorted colored felt and pompons (sprinkles), pink ribbon (suspenders), batting and pink spray paint (frosting).

Glue or peel and stick Velcro to attach cupcake decorations and a roundish laundry hamper (cupcake liner). Cut a hole into the bottom of the hamper. This is so it can be worn. Cover the hamper with aluminum foil. Tie the ribbon onto the hamper to make suspenders, and adjust to fit the child.

Spray-paint the batting. Once dry, glue the batting around the top of the hamper. Attach pompons and felt, cut to look like sprinkles. Attach the large red pompon or painted Styrofoam ball onto the top of the hood. Glue the pipe cleaner to it to form a stem. If you can't find a hoodie, use a winter hat.

BUTTERFLY: Use a black sweat suit (hooded top). You'll need a headband, black pipe cleaners and two small pompons or Styrofoam balls painted black. You can buy the wings separately. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the headband. Glue one pompom to each pipe cleaner to form antennae.

Or you can use a black winter hat and simply coil the pipe cleaners, poke through the hat, and bend to attach. Along the same lines, you can create a fairy costume by buying fairy wings instead of butterfly wings. Then make a no-sew tutu by using the directions at www.gophotography.com/tutu.

GRAPES: Use a purple sweat suit (hooded top). Attach purple balloons with safety pins to sweat suit (top and bottom). Cut a couple of grape-leaf shapes from green felt, and glue a couple of green pipe cleaners coiled to look like grapevine to the underside of the leaves. You can use small pieces of brown felt rolled to form a stem, too.

To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com.

HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CREATION Challenge!

It's Time to pick the Final Five!

VOTE for your favorite!

The area's best bakers have uploaded photos of their best cupcake creations to compete for $1,000 in the Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge at the GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food & Cooking Expo, Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Now it's your turn to get involved!
Log on to contests.TribLIVE.com
to vote for your favorite cupcake(s)
and give 5 lucky contestants a chance to compete!

Visit contests.TribLIVE.com and vote for your favorites!

VOTE for your favorite!

$1 donation per vote

Cast your vote today!

All proceeds benefit Operation Santa Claus.

All voting must be done at contests.TribLIVE.com
Log on Today!

Don't wait, deadline to vote is 4 pm October 16, 2009!

The top 5 entrants with most votes will be notified after 4 p.m. on October 16, 2009 of their eligibility to compete in the contest.

SPONSORED BY GoodTaste! Pittsburgh relish TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Operation Santa Claus

The Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge is a cupcake decorating competition, benefiting Operation Santa Claus. Operation Santa Claus is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with the Salvation Army to deliver complete holiday meals to needy families throughout the region.

1414475

Official Rules

1. To vote, visit contests TribLIVE.com. Trib Total Media readers will cast their votes for their favorite cakes by ballots online at PittsburghLIVE.com. $1 per vote; $5 minimum donation All proceeds benefit Operation Santa Claus. Voting may be only be done by visiting contests.TribLIVE.com 2. Voting period is September 25 - October 16. Five (5) winners will be notified after 4 p.m. on October 16, 2009 that they are eligible to compete in the Holiday Cupcake Creaton Challenge at GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food & Cooking Expo on November 7 , 2009. 3. 1st place prize will include $1,000 cash courtesy of Relish Magazine and other prizes as yet to be determined. 2nd and 3rd place prizes will also be awarded. 4. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulation apply. 5. Additional rules and regulations may apply.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Trib Total Media Marketing Department at 412.320.7941.

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■ Advanced Carbohydrate Counting, Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, Monongahela Valley Hospital 9 a.m.

■ Deadline to pay Monessen 2009 school tax at discount amount.

■ Free Fellowship Luncheon, Presbyterian Church of Charleroi, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

■ Washington Township tax office opens additional hours, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

■ Angel Food Ministries registration, First Presbyterian Church, 609 Chess St., Monongahela, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Order deadline for homemade apple strudel, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Dominic worship site, Donora, (724) 379-9036 or (724) 379-7382.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Monongahela Veterans Council plans meeting

The Monongahela Veterans Council will meet and discuss the Veterans Day program 7 p.m. Wednesday at VFW Post 1409.

Relatives as Parents Program meeting set

The Southwestern PA Area Agency on Aging Inc. Relatives as Parents Program will meet 6 p.m. Thursday at the Washington Care Center, 75 E. Maiden St., Washington. Free childcare will be available. For information, call (724) 489-8082, ext. 4646.

Fall Festival planned at Holy Resurrection

The 14th annual Fall Festival will take place noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Mary Street, Belle Vernon. Baba's Kitchen menu will include halupki, halushki, pierogie, beef stroganoff, homemade bread and pastries, and Russian imports. The event will include a flea market, free children's carnival and face-painting. For information, visit www.hrocbv.org.

Bingo planned

Holy Family Christian Mothers, Second Street, West Newton, will sponsor bingo 2 p.m. Sunday in the social hall. The admission charge will include games and lunch.

Crafters needed for Allenport U.M. event

Crafters are needed for an Allenport United Methodist Church show scheduled 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Allenport Fire Hall. For information, call Carol at (724) 326-4874.

Spaghetti, meatball dinner scheduled

An all-you-can-eat spaghetti and meatball dinner will be held 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Marianna Methodist Church.

Sons of American Legion sets meeting

Sons of the American Legion Post 22, Charleroi, will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday at the post.

The Donora High School Class of 1964 conducted its 45-year class reunion. First row, left to right, kneeling, Jim Rue, Raymond Keith, Bernie Mozden, Tom Smith, Gene Pasterick, Renee Hendrickson Grimes, David Ruev; second row, Barbara Horak Smith, Ginny Sala Monaghan, Joanne Zurkow Jones, Patty Windell Quinn, Judy Chadwick Mrlack, Pauline Drahuschak Petro, Peggy Stinogle Anderson, Kay Ross Hayward, Karen Koscelak; third row, Joe Greco, Jim Colley, Dave Tauktus, Paulette Jefferson, Bob Kosko, Bob Haney, Ruth Horner Zenobi, Marlene Schwalb Bates, Linda Garcia, Ron Chadwick, Louise Osiol Hogg, Andrea Toth Macik, Mary Ann Vayansky Davis, Nancy Glinka Nartowicz, Chuck Guyker, Sarah Uram Cosner; back row, Ricco Davis, Terry Jones, John Vayansky, Russell Hoade, Colin Sharp, Frank Pavlisak, John McCans and Jay Bates.

Donora 1964 marks 45 years

The Donora High School Class of 1964 conducted its 45-year class reunion Sept. 11 at the St. Spyridon Hellenic Center in Monessen.

Prior to dinner, President Tom Smith welcomed classmates and guests and dedicated the reunion to classmate and committee member Andrea Stark Jones, who died the day before the reunion.

The tables were decorated with crystal vases and burnt orange Gerbera daisies arranged by classmate Kay Ross Hayward. Tea lights enhanced the floral arrangements. The floral arrangements were awarded as door prizes.

Joe Greco provided an invocation and a memorial tribute to deceased classmates including an additional tribute to Jones. Class photos were taken and prepared and distributed by Jim and Karen Rue.

After dinner, the class conducted a brief business meeting and discussed preliminary plans for a 65th birthday party and the 50-year reunion.

Greco will serve as chairman.

Classmates and their guests danced to music provided by Jeff Nobili and the Sound Design.

Classmates attended from as far away as Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The reunion committee comprised Tom and Barb Smith, Ginny Sala Monaghan, Peggy Stinogle Anderson, Jim Rue, Kay Ross Hayward, Greco, Gene Pasterick and Jones.

When you make the grade

When submitting news items for our Making the Grade feature, please include the first and last names of all listed.

In addition, include a telephone number, just in case we have any questions about your submission.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

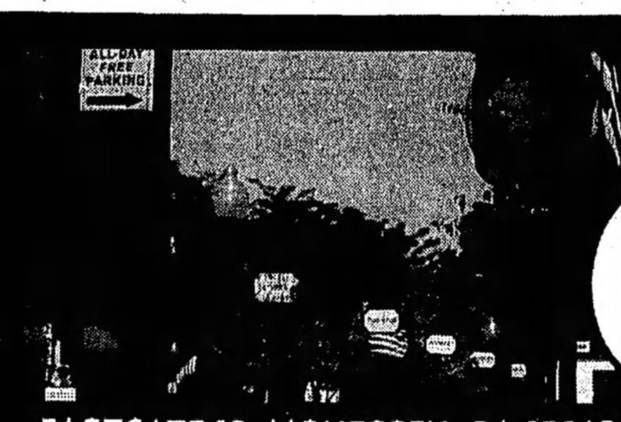
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: O equals C

"SE ABC DMYNKWA ZYJSMY JBIYKTSXD, TNGY KTY DCKJ KB JKNUY YGYMAKTSXD BX BPKNSXSXD SK." - PMYXZNX EMNXOSJ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Faith is different from proof; the latter is human, the former is a gift from God." - Blaise Pascal

Valley Business appears each Wednesday



EASTGATE 19, MONESSEN, PA 15062
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM

Valley INDEPENDENT

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RECRUITMENT

DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

LEGALS

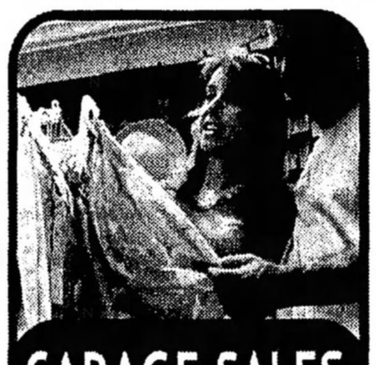
DAILY: NOON, 2 Weekdays Prior To Publication
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

MERCHANDISE

4 LINES 4 DAYS $14.30 PRE-PAY

7 LINES 7 DAYS $20.00 PRE-PAY

DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



GARAGE SALES

5 LINES 3 DAYS $18.65 PRE-PAY

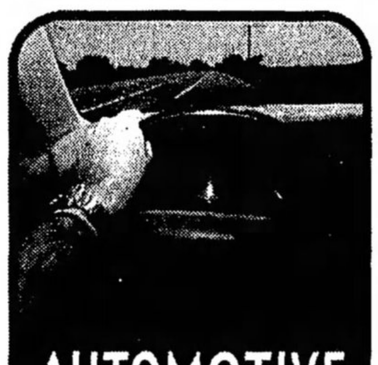
10 LINES 3 DAYS $21.00 PRE-PAY

DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

SERVICE DIRECTORY

3 LINES • 30 DAYS $59.77 PRE-PAY

DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



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$19.45 PRE-PAY

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SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

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1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

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1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, currently seeking full & part-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton & Elizabeth areas. No experience necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

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1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

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1040/MEDICAL

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Psych Tech-Serve as active member of treatment team in inpatient mental health care setting. Requires bachelor's degree in psychology or related social science.
Send resume or call for application:
Human Resources Dept.
Highlands Hospital
401 E. Murphy Ave.
Connellsville, PA 15425
724-626-2314 E.O.E.

1040/MEDICAL

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1050/SALES

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2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Chulig, Nicholas
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of NICHOLAS CHULIG, late of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary upon the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those indebted thereto to make immediate payment, and to all those having claims or demands to present them for settlement and/or consideration by the undersigned.

Jeffry D. Woods,
Executrix
41 Willow Drive
Monessen, PA 15062

Richard C. Mudrick
Attorney at Law
300 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
9/15,22,29

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE NOTICE

Letters testamentary on the Estate of EMORY P. FABIAN late of *Westmoreland County*, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to:

Phyllis A. Scott,
Executor
21 Keystone Drive
Monessen, PA 15062

Cheryl Fox, Executor
4945 East Cheery Lynn Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85018
9/29;10/6,13

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Looking for a new best friend?
Find one in PETS!
CLASSIFIEDS
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2030/MEETING NOTICES

MEETING NOTICE

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monessen Public Library and District Center has been scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. in the Library.
9/29

2060/GOVERNMENT NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENACT

The BOROUGH OF SPEERS, Washington County, Pennsylvania, intends to take action at a meeting of Council to be held Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at the Speers Borough Municipal Building, 300 Phillips Street, Speers Borough, Charleroi, Pennsylvania, on an Ordinance to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens, to establish rights and obligations of Owners and Occupants relating to the rental of certain dwelling units in the Borough and to encourage Owners and Occupants to maintain and improve the quality of rental housing within the community. The Ordinance will provide for a system of inspections issuance and renewal of occupancy licenses and sets penalties for violations.

BOROUGH OF SPEERS
By: Helen Cunningham
Borough Secretary
9/29

4100/PERSONALS

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or
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APPLIANCE REPAIR Center.
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1-800-566-4167.

HAULING CONTINUED

CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds.
Scrap metal hauled.
724-483-2140.

HERK'S HAULING
Stone, Cleanouts, etc.
No job too small!
724-929-9013.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STASKO Restoration
all your home needs.
Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est.
Calls will be returned.
724-348-6276.

RAINEY ENTERPRISE
Quality work at a reasonable price.
Garage pkg's., additions, new construction, renovations, siding, soffit & fascia, roofing, concrete, retaining walls.
724-929-8733.

HOME REPAIR

HANDYMAN MATTERS
Bonded & Insured. BBB.
PA:000215
724-258-4884.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

LYNCH
Landscape Supply.
Topsoil, mulches, mushroom composte, deco stone, river stone, limestone, sand, Keystone, retaining walls & more.
Venetia 724-348-5518.
Belle Vernon 724-929-2177.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES CONTINUED

TOPSOIL 24/7
Screened & Non-Screened.
Call 724-938-0453

LAUNDROMATS

Bentleyville - 721 Main St.
OPEN 24 HOURS
412-215-0661.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Call XTREME LANDSCAPING for all your lawn & landscaping needs.
LOW RATES. Free est.
724-350-7357
or 724-684-8108.

DAVIS
Landscaping & Trucking.
Retaining walls, all types concrete, trim, edge, remulching, all types drain work.
No job too big or too small.
724-258-8939.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR

BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del.
724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE

LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins.
724-258-3407.

AFFORDABLE Lawn Care.
Best Rates. Senior Disc.
724-396-0660.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call 724-684-5200.

LAWN SERVICE CONTINUED

LEAFS LEAFS LEAFS
fall clean-up, grass cutting, pruning, mulching & shrubs.
Call Pristine Lawn Care for guaranteed best rates
724-797-4622 Sal.

MASONRY/CONCRETE

John Yurkovich Masonry.
Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. 724-628-7349.
Cell: 814-853-7069.
PA1637

MOVING and STORAGE

FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869
& Fretz Mini Warehouse
724-684-6602, Monessen.
Local moving & storage.

PAINTING

BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining.
Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins.
724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable. Michael Lundy.
724-292-9004.

EVANS PAINTING Voted Valley Favorite. Int. & ext. ptg.
724-344-4984,
724-489-4457.

Tregembo Motors

PLASTERING

PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters.
724-929-9765.

PLUMBING

GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service.
724-684-4439, 379-8197.

QUICK RESPONSE
Plumbing. Heat/AC.
Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

LENDWAY & SONS
General Plumbing.
724-348-4644,
724-379-4962.

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call 724-684-5200.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Need help renting your property out? We're expanding our Property Management Department. Call Tom Simon Howard Hanna Simon Real Estate Services
724-929-9699

ROOFING

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

ROOFING, siding, windows, doors, additions, garages, porch roofs, decks, gutters.
Michael Smaracheck
724-469-6560.

LENDWAY & SONS
ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

SEPTIC CLEANING

MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime.
724-929-8152.

TREE REMOVAL

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Bucket Truck Service. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

TREE PRO - tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097 724-797-4944.

TREE & STUMP Removal.
Free est. Ins'd.
Gregg 724-258-8360.

TREE SERVICE

TREECISION
Free est., Ins. Danger tree specialist. 724-288-3904 or 724-797-2204.

Service Directory Ads Work.
For Only
$59.77 per month.
Call 724-684-5200.

WINDOWS

DHCS Windows & Doors.
$185 window install.
724-797-1486.

VALLEY INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING INDEX

RECRUITMENT - 1000
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3010 For Sale - Alleg. Co. S.
3015 For Sale - Alleg. Co. E.
3020 For Sale - Alleg. Co. W.
3025 For Sale - Pittsburgh/City
3030 For Sale - Armstrong
3035 For Sale - Beaver
3040 For Sale - Butler
3045 For Sale - Fayette
3050 For Sale - Green
3055 For Sale - Indiana
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3065 For Sale - Westmoreland
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3085 Farms
3090 Manufactured Homes
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3500 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. N.
3505 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. S.
3510 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. E.
3515 Apt./Rent - Alleg. Co. W.
3520 Apt./Rent - Pittsburgh/City
3525 Apt./Rent - Armstrong
3530 Apt./Rent - Beaver
3535 Apt./Rent - Butler
3540 Apt./Rent - Fayette
3545 Apt./Rent - Green
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3565 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. N.
3570 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. S.
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3580 Houses/Rent - Alleg. Co. W.
3585 Houses/Rent - Pittsburgh/City
3590 Houses/Rent - Armstrong
3595 Houses/Rent - Beaver
3600 Houses/Rent - Butler
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6080 Auto Sales
6090 Antique/Classic
6100 Wanted To Buy
6110 Auto Service Dealers

REAL ESTATE

3045/FOR SALE/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON- for sale by owner. 2 bedroom, new kitchen, furnace, roof & hot water tank. Nice area. $37,500. 724-322-5129

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CHARLEROI New Listing. Cute 3 bedroom home walking distance to town for easy living! Updated kitchen and 1st floor laundry! All rooms are nice sizes. Truly ready to move in! $42,500.

FALLOWFIELD TWP. New Listing. What a find! This beautiful 3 bedroom home has been redone from top to bottom! New roof, electrical, hot water tank, windows, kitchen carpet, etc! You don't want to miss this one! $98,000.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

DUNLEVY 3 BR, 2 ½ bath, gameroom, pool, garage, totally remodeled. Asking $187,000. 724-489-9331.

MONONGAHELA
Beautiful 3 bedroom, wood burning fireplace, living & dining rooms, den, large kitchen, full bath, covered porch & deck, large private yard, off-street parking, nice neighborhood. Access to public transportation & boating. Newer furnace & windows w/window treatments, new paint & carpet. Ringgold Schools. Only $64,900. 724-366-2091

UNION TWP.: LEVEL lot that can be used for mobile or garage. $15,000.

TABLE top lot perfect for small home or mobile. Asking $29,900.

CHARLEROI-This duplex could be a real moneymaker. Needs some TLC. $19,821.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

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TELEVISION
MAGAZINES
INTERNET
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3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

ROSTRAVER
3 bedroom, all brick, 2/3 acre double lot, pool, walk to all schools, stunning inside & out. $229,900. Call 724-929-3325 or see at www.paopenhouse.com

ROSTRAVER TWP. 5 bedroom, 2 story brick/vinyl contemporary with open floor plan. 3.5 baths, office, den, exercise room, 2 decks, skylights, 2 car garage & professionally landscaped. EZ access to Rt. 51, I-70, schools & shopping. We thought this was sold but due to finances sale was not able to close. GOOD NEWS-Here is your second change to own this gorgeous home for it's new price of $325,000!

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BELLE VERNON
Cheaper than rent, here is a 2 bedroom Cape in a nice Lynnwood location. Family room in basement. A bargain at $69,900.

CARROLL TWP.
All brick 3 bedroom ranch on ½ acre lot. New decor throughout with 3 baths, new furnace and air. Total perfection and priced to sell. $119,900.

NEW LISTING
Rostraver Township. Private cul-de-sac location for this immaculate 2 story home. 3 bedroom with 1st floor family room. Oak cabinetry with ceramic flooring. Hardwoods in dining room, large rear covered deck. All this on a ½ acre super private lot. $229,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES 2ci ASSOCIATES
724-929-1370

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI- 1 bedroom new carpet, linoleum & paint, 2nd floor. References. No pets. Non-smoker. 724-825-8395.

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI- 2 bedroom apt. Newly remodeled. Washer & dryer hookups. Please call 724-439-3440.

CHARLEROI-1 bedroom, $475 per month, all utilities included except electric. 412-583-6829.

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $350-$500. Security deposit. No pets.
724-396-1140
724-292-1189

CHARLEROI 2 ½ bedroom, stove, refrig. heat, water, sewage, garbage inc. $575. 724-518-1677.

★ CHARLEROI And DONORA ★
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Clean & Secure
Call 412-398-9306

CHARLEROI nice 1 bedroom. $350 plus gas & electric. Water, sewage & appliances included. Call 724-396-9436

DONORA eat-in kitchen, stove, refrig., lg. living room, 2 bedrooms, clean, peaceful, on bus line, no pets. 724-379-6492.

MONONGAHELA 2 bedroom, private, 1st floor, fireplace, back yard. $430+ utilities. 724-258-2473.

3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON- completely remodeled 2 bedroom 1 bath, living/kitchen area w/breakfast bar, laundry, deck, spacious closets, new appliances, security system. $650 includes sewage & water. No pets. References required. 724-379-6160.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

BELLE VERNON & MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, balcony, storage, security. Starting at $375 + utilities. Call 412-257-0902.

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

ARNOLD CITY 136 Nagy St. 2 bedroom, some appliances, oil heat, nice yard, no pets. $475+ security & utilities. 724-243-3205.

BELLE VERNON- 414 Market St. 3 bedroom updated home w/1st floor laundry & covered parking. $595+ utilities. Call 724-880-6595.

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

3626/HSE-RENT/OTHER

Need Help Renting Your Property Out?
We're Expanding Our Property Management Department
Call Tom Simon at 724-929-9699
Howard Hanna
Simon Real Estate Services
724-929-9699

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

DAWSON- 2 bedrooms, large yard, pavilion, storage shed. $650 includes gas heat. Call 724-736-4781.

WASHINGTON TWP. 2 bedroom home, private lot, large rooms, C/A. No pets. Non-smoker. 724-326-4834.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- 2 houses: 3 bedrooms each, 1 bath, central air, parking. $560 mo. ea. Section 8 ok. 1-718-622-3090.

DONORA- rent to own 2 or 3 bedroom, nice house. $2,000 down, $350 per month. Call 724-875-9123.

DONORA
2 bedroom house, bath, A/C, yard. Some utilities. Hud accepted.

N. CHARLEROI
3 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 ½ bath, A/C. Some utilities. Hud accepted.
724-554-1523

LOWER SPEERS- 2 story 2 bedroom. Close to bus, private parking. No pets. $575 + utilities. 724-961-6127.

MONONGAHELA- 3 bedroom duplex $525. 2 bedroom $425. Very clean, new carpet. 724-249-3100.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN 3 bedroom freshly painted. Section 8 ok. No pets. $575+ utilities & security. Call 412-592-8893.

MONESSEN 3 bedroom, completely remodeled. Sec. 8 approved. $600 includes sewage & water. 412-445-8491.

3636/GARAGE/STORAGE

GARAGE 19x30, 14x11 door, $242.00 per month. Finleyville area. 724-825-1411, 724-986-3279.

3645/MOBILE RENTALS

2 BEAUTIFUL MOBILE HOMES
Completely renovated
Everything new & upgraded
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Sewage & Water,
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$475 Per Month
Riverview Mobile Estates, Dunlevy
724-483-2087
412-638-9620

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

FAYETTE CITY for rent formerly Skibo's Salon, 1,155 sq. ft. Call for details 412-583-6829.

MONONGAHELA
WAREHOUSE/OFFICE SPACE
2,200 sq. ft. 10' overhead garage door. Near Rts. 43, 51 & 70. $650 mo.
---------AND----------
MONONGAHELA
NEW OFFICES/FLEX SPACES
640-2,200 sq. ft. $425-$1,400. On site parking, close to Rts. 43, 51, 70.
Call 724-258-4000.
www.penosplaza.com

PERRYOPOLIS- small office or retail space for rent. Great location. Affordable. Call 724-880-1910.

Shopping for a new Home?

"Use our Classifieds for the right one."
THE Valley INDEPENDENT Where the Mon Valley makes their choice.

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

2 LEVEL LOTS at MV Memorial Park in Well of Semaria section, near main road, across from old school. $945 for both. 724-929-4578

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING? Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
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Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

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A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

BOYS/GIRLS band t-shirts $3 ea. Hoodies $5 ea. Leave message 724-288-5641.

BOYS all seasons clothing size 10/12, 2 bags, $10.00
Call 724-483-1801.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING 25 items, sizes 2-6X, $25.00. Call 724-938-6816.

CLOTHES-girls fall name brand sizes 10, 12, 14 tops & bottoms. $2 ea. 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

CLOTHES- name brand fall boys size 8 tops & bottoms. $2 ea. 724-379-6663 / 516-1845.

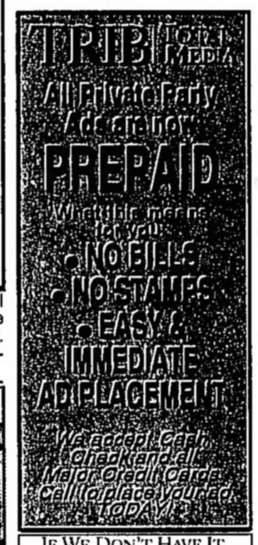
GIRLS CLOTHES size 7/8 2 large garbage bags, $45.00 each. Call 724-366-7028.

GIRLS CLOTHES size 7/8, large garbage bag for $45.00. Call 724-366-7028.

5010/APPLIANCES

DISHWASHER Kenmore under-the-counter, like new $75. Leave msg. 412-853-6600.

5020/ARTICLES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LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE? CHECK OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

4100/PERSONALS

5020/ARTICLES

2 PLAYER Pop A Shot Basketball Game 7ft. tall, $75.00. Call 724-483-1801.

500 VCR MOVIES- $5 each. 724-938-3436.

AMISH made sunflower napkin holder & apple butter churn $5 ea. 724-288-5641.

BIRD CAGE- used for decoration purposes only, $200. Call 724-929-4980.

BLACK BIRD CAGE medium size $10.00
Call
724-483-1801.

CHRISTMAS GLASSES- variety of 50, with gold trim & holy decoration. $1 each. 724-929-4980

DORM REFRIGERATOR $40.00
Call
724-929-3742.

FURNACE PIPES- single, $50. Call 724-483-2369.

FUSE BOX- new service entrance Federal Pacific 100 amp. $20. Call 724-929-8108.

HOME INTERIOR apple picture, $10.00. Leave message 724-288-5641.

KITCHEN KNIVES & block, new. $30. Call 724-938-3436.

LAMPS, large living room lamp, cranberry/green, exc. $50. 724-288-5641.

MICROWAVE Carousel $50.00
Call
724-929-3742.

MICROWAVE good condition, $20.00
Call
724-797-0895.

PICNIC TABLE with umbrella, portable. New, in box. $70. Call 724-929-4980

PLAQUE little boy's room says Jeff's Room w/teddy bear, all wood, $10. 724-288-5641.

POOL TABLE regulation size and accessories, $150.00. Call 724-929-7961.

SWAN VASE- new in box, beautiful $50; also little red WAGON, $50. Call 724-929-4980.

TV- 36" flat picture tube w/stand, great picture. $100. 724-483-1805.

TV 36" Sony WEGA FD Trinitron $150.00 firm
Call
724-258-7946.

TWIST SLIDE for wooden swing set, excellent condition. $200. 724-510-1466.

5030/AUCTIONS

CLOSED STORE AUCTION
Wed., Sept 30, 6pm
Strickler Auction House, 234 Main St., Fayette City. Closed the store. Trains & Toys to include Lionel, Flyer, HO, ceramic & plastic houses, Lionel..#50 set 2035 set, 60, 93, 102 plus lots more. RR paper, Flyer diesel set, approx. 200 boxed HO kits: round house & Atherns, models, Dept. 56, Lemax houses, old Christmas, cast iron railroad crossing bell, lots, lots more. See auctionzip.com.
Don Strickler Auctioneer AU3581-L 724-326-4050

5070/ELECTRONICS

TV- Goldstar color cable ready, 16" screen. $50. Call 724-684-5762.

5080/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

WEIGHT SET complete, etc. $75.00
Call
724-797-0895.

5110/FOOD

ANGUS
FREEZER BEEF
All Grain Fed
Call 724-345-3302

VEGETABLES
Tomatoes: canning $20/bushel & Roma's $24/bushel. Potatoes: red, white & gold, $16/bushel; plus many other canning vegetables available. Duda's Farm 724-246-7601.

5130/FURNITURE

2 BED FRAMES- maple colored wooden, storage. Good condition. $70 each or $125 both. 724-326-8311.

CHAIR- living room, like new, $100; & chrome & glass END TABLES, $50. 724-483-1805.

COFFEE TABLE, end table, glass top with oak legs, $50. Call 724-929-5446.

COUCH, chair, ottoman, 2 small marble coffee tables & large picture. $125. 724-243-3229.

CURIO- oak trimmed, very nice. Must see to appreciate. $300. Call 724-929-4980.

TODDLER BED complete, white, removable side rails $25.00. Call 724-938-6816.

5180/MUSICAL

BUGLES Old Drum Corps $40.00 & $50.00
Call
724-326-5556.

CLARINET Bundy excellent, $165. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

FLUTE Artley excellent, $140. Call 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

ORGAN BENCH- Lowry, never used. Excellent condition. $10. Call 724-684-5762.

TRUMPET Case, accessories, all perfect cond. $150. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

BAR ROOM GAMES: basketball $25; new ping pong table $100. Call 724-483-2369.

PAIR OF SKIS- no boots $25. Call 724-483-2369

5220/WANTED TO BUY

BUYING Old Metal Signs & Military Items. Call Bill Brand at 724-929-7895

5550/CATS

FREE KITTENS to a good home
Call
724-938-6816.

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5550/CATS

KITTENS- free to good home. Please call 724-797-1004.

KITTENS 1st shots, litter trained, $35 inc. spay/neuter. 724-258-8380.

L/H orange/white cat, neutered, declawed, 2 yrs. $25. Call 724-258-8380.

TABBY CAT 6 mos., neutered, shots, very sweet, $25. Call 724-258-8380.

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST- cat, white w/orange tiger stripe markings. Valley Inn Social Hall area, off 4th St., Carroll Twp. 412-657-9892, 724-518-3464.

5050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

MUD FLAP full length for motor home, new, $35.00. Call 724-929-3742.

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At Affordable Prices
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MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

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Bentleyville
724-239-2200
tregembomotors.com

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4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO ❖ GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2009

LIBRA
September 23 through October 23

Your most successful endeavors in the year ahead are likely to be those to which you've devoted considerable time and effort in developing. Stay the course until you reap the harvest.

LIBRA **(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Your perfect timing, so essential to your success, will come through once again. When you spot a window of opportunity, you'll give it everything you have.

SCORPIO **(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Express your points of view and opinions openly, because they are likely to have more meaning to your peers than you realize. Don't discount what you have to offer.

SAGITTARIUS **(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Don't be afraid to use bold measures if that's what it takes to get things done. Success is likely to be denied -- unless you are willing to go the extra mile both physically and mentally.

CAPRICORN **(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Only after you have thoroughly thought things out and are prepared to stand by your convictions can you reach your goal without interference. Don't let onlookers deter you.

AQUARIUS **(Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- The secret to a successful joint endeavor is based solely on the fact that you will align yourself with those whose ambitions, objectives and abilities complement your own.

PISCES **(Feb. 20-March 20)** -- If the one you love receives an abundance of compliments and attention, pat yourself on the back for your good choice. It'll make you proud.

ARIES **(March 21-April 19)** -- Press forward and you should be able to wrap up to your satisfaction a tempestuous matter. Just stay calm, and use your head.

TAURUS **(April 20-May 20)** -- Although you might give boring tasks a lick and a promise in order to pursue more pleasurable activities, it won't hamper you in the large scheme of things. Enjoy the day.

GEMINI **(May 21-June 20)** -- If you put your mind to it, you can devise creative ways to generate extra funds -- as long as you're willing to use both your brains and brawn.

CANCER **(June 21-July 22)** -- Put your present interests into high gear, and you'll make more headway than you ever would have suspected. Don't wait on others to open doors or blaze trails. Do things yourself.

LEO **(July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Business opportunities won't simply fall into your lap; you'll be on your toes, ready to pounce at the first opening. You will make serious headway simply because of hard work.

VIRGO **(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- What makes you so successful is the realization that people don't always make things happen; sometimes Lady Luck comes into play, which is likely to be the case at this time.

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